



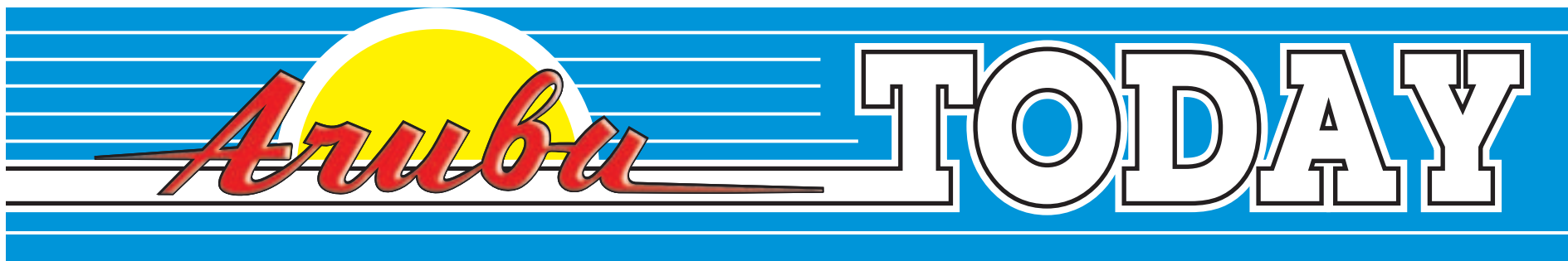
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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, January 10, 2015



French Forces Kill Gunmen, End Hostage Sieges

Motorcyclists ride on the Champs Elysees with the Arc de Triomphe displaying the solidarity message "Paris is Charlie" in Paris, France, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015. With explosions and gunfire, French security forces ended a three-day terror rampage around Paris, killing the two al-Qaida-linked brothers who staged a murderous rampage at a satirical newspaper as well as an associate who seized a kosher supermarket to try to help them escape.

(AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

**LORI HINNANT
ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — With explosions and gunfire, security forces on Friday ended a three-day terror spree around Paris, killing the two al-Qaida-linked brothers who staged a murderous rampage at a satirical newspaper, and an associate who seized hostages at a kosher supermarket to try to help them escape. The worst terrorist attacks France has seen in de-

cades killed at least 20 people, including the three gunmen. A fourth suspect — the common law wife of the market attacker — was still at large and believed to be armed and dangerous. Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen said it directed the attack against the publication Charlie Hebdo to avenge the honor of the Prophet Muhammad, a frequent target of the weekly's satire. The brothers were not unknown to authorities: One

had a terrorism-related conviction for ties to a network sending fighters to battle American forces in Iraq, and both were on the U.S. no-fly list, according to a U.S. official. President Francois Hollande urged his nation to remain united and vigilant, and the city shut down a famed Jewish neighborhood amid fears of more violence. "The threats facing France are not finished," Hollande said. "We are a free people who cave to no pressure."

The drama, which played out on live TV and social media, began with the brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi methodically massacring 12 people Wednesday at the Charlie Hebdo offices, stopping to shoot a wounded police officer in the head before escaping by car. Thursday, a gunman police identified as Amedy Coulibaly shot a policewoman to death south of Paris, initially believed to be unrelated to the Charlie Hebdo

shootings. It all ended at dusk Friday with near-simultaneous raids in two locations: a printing plant in the town of Dammartin-en-Goele, northeast of Paris, where the Kouachis were holed up with a lone hostage, and the Paris supermarket where Coulibaly held shoppers at gunpoint, threatening to kill them unless police let the Kouachis go.

Continued on page 2

French forces kill gunmen, end hostage sieges

Continued from Front

As scores of black-clad security forces surrounded both sites, booming explosions, heavy gunfire and dense smoke heralded the news that the twin sieges finally had ended.

The three gunmen were dead — but also killed were four of the hostages at the market. Sixteen hostages were freed, one from the printing plant and 15 others from the store.

The attackers had ties both

de Gaulle airport.

A member of the al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula provided a statement Friday in English to The Associated Press saying the group's leadership "directed the operations and they have chosen their target carefully."

The attack was in line with warnings from the late al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden to the West about "the consequences of the persistence in the blasphemy against Muslim sanctities," the member

tion i-Tele. At the kosher grocery near the Porte de Vincennes neighborhood in Paris, the gunman burst in shooting just a few hours before the Jewish Sabbath began, declaring "You know who I am," the official recounted. The attack came before sundown when the store would have been crowded with shoppers.

Paris police released a photo of Coulibaly and his wife, Hayat Boumeddiene, who the official said was an accomplice.

The TV station said Coulibaly didn't hang up properly after the phone call and that this allowed police to hear him saying a final prayer before his death, perhaps suggesting that this prompted the police raid.

Police said Coulibaly had been a co-suspect with Cherif Kouachi in a court case involving terrorism that never made it to trial. The Paris mayor's office shut down all shops along Rosiers Street in the city's famed Marais neighbor-



Police officers prepare to storm a kosher grocery to end a hostage situation in Paris, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015. Three terrorists who seized hostages at separate locations and ignited fear across Paris were killed Friday along with three of their hostages as the gunmen clashed with thousands of French security forces.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

to each other and to terrorist activities that reached back years and extended from Paris to al-Qaida in Yemen. They epitomized Western authorities' greatest fear: Islamic radicals who trained abroad and came home to stage attacks.

After the killings at the Charlie Hebdo offices, Cherif Kouachi, 32, and his 34-year-old brother Said led police on a chase around northeastern France, robbing a gas station and stealing a car before ending up at the printing plant in Dammarin-en-Goele, near Charles

said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the group's regulations do not permit him to give his name.

He said the group has delayed its declaration of responsibility for "security reasons."

The brothers were cornered there for much of the day before the explosions and gunfire rang out in the twilight and a police SWAT team clambered onto the roof.

"They said they want to die as martyrs," Yves Albarello, a local lawmaker inside the command post, told French television sta-

tion i-Tele. Several people who were wounded when the gunman opened fire in the grocery store fled and got medical care, the official said.

Minutes before police stormed both sites, Coulibaly had threatened to kill his five hostages if authorities launched an assault on the two brothers, a police official said.

BFM also said it spoke with Coulibaly, who said he and the Kouachis were coordinating their actions, and that he was with the militant Islamic State group. The organizations are normally rivals.

hood in the heart of the tourist district. Hours before the Jewish Sabbath, the street is usually crowded with shoppers — French Jews and tourists alike. The street is also only a kilometer (half a mile) from Charlie Hebdo's offices.

At the kosher grocery near the Porte de Vincennes neighborhood in Paris, the gunman burst in shooting just a few hours before the Jewish Sabbath began, declaring "You know who I am," the official recounted.

Continued on page 27

Kerry meets Iran counterpart next week in Geneva

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry will meet Iran's foreign minister in Switzerland next week to discuss the current state of nuclear negotiations as a March target date for the outline of a deal approaches, the U.S. State Department said Friday.

After a trip to South Asia, Kerry will see Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday, a day before negotiators resume with detailed talks in Geneva on Jan. 15, department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters. En route to India this weekend, Kerry will stop in Munich, Germany, for a private meeting with the Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, whose country played a key role in the secret U.S.-Iran talks that led to an interim nuclear accord with Tehran, she said. Iran and six powers — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — are hoping to agree on a framework by March and a final agreement by June 30 that would address international concerns that Iran is using a civilian atomic energy program to hide efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Under the terms of the interim deal, the U.S. and other nations are providing relief from sanctions to Iran with an eye toward easing and eventually lifting the penalties if Tehran agrees to a final pact and complies with it.

Kerry's Iran-related meetings in Munich and Geneva will bookend a trip to Ahmedabad, India, where he will lead a U.S. delegation to a conference of government officials, business executives and innovators that will focus on sustainable economic growth and be opened by India's prime minister. While in Ahmedabad, Kerry will also meet the prime minister of Bhutan, in what will be one of the highest-level meetings between the countries, Psaki said. □

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British cleric sentenced to life in prison in terror case



Sam Schmidt, the attorney for Mostafa Kamel Mostafa, leaves a courthouse in New York after the former imam was sentenced to life in prison for helping orchestrate 16 kidnappings in Yemen, Jan. 9, 2015. Mostafa, also known as Abu Hamza al-Masri, was sent from England to the United States in 2012 after a lengthy extradition fight.

(Bryan R. Smith/The New York Times)

BENJAMIN WEISER

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NEW YORK - A fiery British cleric who was convicted last year of 11 terrorism-related charges, including helping to orchestrate the violent 1998 kidnappings of 16 U.S., British and Australian tourists in Yemen, was sentenced in Manhattan on Friday to life in prison.

The cleric, Mostafa Kamel Mostafa, 56, a former imam at the Finsbury Park mosque in North London, had "worked tirelessly to drive his young, impressionable followers to participate in acts of violence and murder across the globe," prosecutors had told the judge, Katherine B. Forrest of U.S. District Court, in a sentencing memorandum this month.

Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, had sought a life sentence for Mostafa, who is also known as Abu Hamza al-Masri.

"From the safe confines of his mosque, Abu Hamza openly and unapologetically used the power of his hateful words to distort religion by giving purport-

ed religious justification for acts of terrorism," Bharara's office wrote.

Four hostages in the kidnappings in Yemen were killed during a Yemeni rescue operation after they were used as human shields by their captors, a militant group aligned with Mostafa, testimony at his six-week trial showed.

Mostafa was also convicted of supporting terrorism by sending one of his followers to train with al-Qaida in Afghanistan and of trying to create a terrorist training camp in Bly, Oregon.

At trial, prosecutors also introduced statements Mostafa had made in which he spoke approvingly of the 2000 bombing by al-Qaida of the U.S. destroyer Cole in Yemen and had described Osama bin Laden as "a hero."

"Everybody was happy when the planes hit the World Trade Center," Mostafa had said in one statement.

Mostafa was sent to the United States from Britain in 2012 to face trial after a lengthy extradition fight.

His lawyers had asked the judge for a sentence of less than life imprisonment and also that she recommend Mostafa be sent directly to a federal Bureau of Prisons medical center to ensure that his medical needs were met.

Mostafa has long worn metal hooks as prostheses on his arms after he lost his forearms and an eye in a chemical explosion in 1993, when he was working as

a civil engineer in Lahore, Pakistan, an episode he testified about at the trial.

"Mr. Mostafa's sentence must be fashioned in such a way that acknowledges the severity of his crimes but also the challenges that he will face that will make each day in custody significantly worse for him than for nearly any other criminal defendant," his lawyers wrote.

Mostafa had testified at his

trial, denying the charges and claiming he had only issued statements on behalf of the militant group in Yemen, and had been unaware of its kidnapping plans. "I'm their mouthpiece; I'm not their spiritual leader," he said on cross-examination. "What they say, I pass on."

The government, in its papers, said Mostafa "lied over and over again" on the witness stand. □

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US House overwhelmingly approves bill for oil pipeline

DINA CAPPIELLO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The U.S. House overwhelmingly passed a bill Friday authorizing a major oil pipeline, despite a renewed pledge by the White House to veto the legislation after a state court removed a major obstacle.

The Keystone XL pipeline has been one of the biggest areas of conflict between President Barack Obama and Congress, which Republicans took full control of this week for the first time since he took office.

The pipeline would move tar sands oil from Canada 1,179 miles (1,900 kilometers) south to refineries on Gulf of Mexico Coast. Supporters say it would create jobs and ease American dependence on Middle East oil. Critics argue that the drilling is environmentally harmful, and said much of the Canadian crude would be exported with little or no impact on America's drive to reduce oil imports, which have already been greatly reduced because of record U.S. oil production.

The House on Friday approved the measure 266-152, with 28 Democrats



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio strides from the House chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, after the House overwhelmingly passed a bill authorizing the Keystone XL oil pipeline which would carry oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries. The bill passed on a 266-153 vote, one of the first pieces of legislation considered by the Republican-controlled Congress.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

voting in support. It was one of the first pieces of legislation considered by the Republican-controlled Congress and the 10th vote the House had taken since July 2011 to advance the \$8 billion project.

"We shouldn't be debating it, we should be building it," said House Majority

Leader Kevin McCarthy, who noted that more than 2,000 days had passed since the pipeline was first proposed in 2008.

The Senate has a test vote on Monday with enough support to pass an identical bill.

Hours before the House vote, Nebraska's highest

court tossed out a lawsuit challenging the pipeline's route, an obstacle the White House said it needed removed to make a decision.

The White House veto threat was based partly on the outstanding Nebraska case. Obama has said he needed the state court

ruling before deciding whether the cross-border pipeline is in the national interest.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, following the court's decision, renewed a call for Obama to reconsider his promise to veto the measure.

"Today's ruling provides the perfect opportunity for the president to change his unproductive posture on this jobs project and reverse his veto threat," McConnell said. "The president now has every reason to sign it."

In a statement, a White House spokesman said the court's decision will have no effect on the president's plan to veto the bill. "Regardless of the Nebraska ruling today, the House bill still conflicts with long-standing executive branch procedures regarding the authority of the president and prevents the thorough consideration of complex issues that could bear on U.S. national interests, and if presented to the president, he will veto the bill," said deputy press secretary Eric Schultz in a statement.

In the face of a veto threat, Democrats called the bill a waste of time Friday. □

US state court tosses suit over Keystone pipe path

GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press
LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) —

The high court in the state of Nebraska tossed a lawsuit Friday challenging a proposed route for the Keystone XL oil pipeline to Canada, removing a major roadblock for the \$8 billion cross-continental project that is backed by Republicans

who now control all of Congress.

Congress is moving ahead on approving the project, with the House of Representatives scheduled to vote on Friday. The Senate is expected to finish the bill by the end of the month, setting up a showdown with President Barack Obama, who has threatened a veto. □

House Republicans propose reversal of Obama immigration plan

ASHLEY PARKER

© 2015 New York Times

WASHINGTON - House Republicans on Friday unveiled a plan to drastically roll back President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration and strengthen the enforcement of existing immigration laws, an effort to appease most conservative members of their conference and combat what they say is the president's overreach.

The legislation, which would fund the Department of Homeland Security through the fiscal year, would prevent the president from carrying out his recent executive action on immigration and taking any future such action. It would also undo the protected status Obama bestowed in 2012 on the so-called Dreamers

- the young people whose parents brought them to the United States illegally when they were children.

The plan Republicans ultimately supported, after a week of private meetings and behind-the-scenes discussions, is far more expansive than what the Republican leadership team had originally expected to offer.

The repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which could endanger Dreamers, could prove particularly controversial, and even several Republicans in a closed-door meeting Friday objected to such a far-reaching approach.

The bill is unlikely to pass the Senate, and the president has threatened to veto legislation that would undo his recent executive action,



House Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere Chairman Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz. talks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, after a closed-door GOP meeting on President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration. Obama's directives in November gave temporary relief from deportation to about 4 million immigrants in the country illegally, along with permits allowing them to work legally in the U.S. His move infuriated Republicans after their midterm election victories, and they vowed to retaliate once they assumed full control of Congress this week.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Pentagon sets up new missing war dead office

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon took initial steps Friday to set up a new agency that will direct the troubled effort to search for America's missing war dead, two years after an internal report found the current program was mismanaged and wasteful.

Defense officials said that in the coming months they will merge two existing agencies into one prisoner of war-missing in action or POW-MIA office that will be more streamlined and effective. The consolidation will be directed by Rear Adm. Mike Franken, a senior Navy officer, until a permanent civilian leader is named. The new organization will be up and running early next year.

The decision comes in Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's final weeks on the job. Last March, after a long study, Hagel announced he would create a new office to deal with POW-MIA issues that would have more focused authority and innovative approaches.

Hagel's plan combines the functions of the two leading agencies in this field — the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command, based in Hawaii, and the Defense POW-MIA Office, based in the Pentagon. Those two organizations will disappear, and the new agency will be based in Washington for now.

"Finding, recovering and identifying the remains of these individuals is one of our highest responsibilities, and I believed that DoD could more effectively and transparently account for our missing personnel while ensuring their families receive timely and accurate information," said Hagel, who has two Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in the Vietnam war.

The Pentagon has been under congressional pressure to improve the POW-MIA accounting effort. Its failings were highlighted in 2013 when The Associated Press disclosed an internal Pentagon report that said the search for remains of missing soldiers on foreign battlefields was acutely dysfunctional. □

which will allow as many as 5 million undocumented immigrants to live and work in the country.

Without action, the Department of Homeland Security would run out of funding at the end of February.

Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz.,

said that unlike in many previous immigration fights within the Republican conference, when the most conservative members opposed plans, this time it was a handful of the more moderate members who expressed concern.

"I think the direct phraseology was, 'We were hoping it would be more of a rifle shot; this is more expansive,'" Salmon said. But, he added, "this is as close to 100 percent as we've ever gotten on a tough issue like this. □

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Episcopal bishop charged in Baltimore hit-and-run case

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

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BALTIMORE - One of the highest ranking officials in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland was facing multiple charges on Friday in connection with a hit-and-run accident that killed a popular cyclist here two days after Christmas.

As her first act as the state's attorney for Baltimore City, Marilyn J. Mosby, who won in an upset election this fall, said Suffragan Bishop Heather Cook was drunk and texting when she ran over Thomas Palermo, 41, a bike-safety advocate.

At a news conference this morning, Mosby said Cook would face charges including vehicular manslaughter, criminal negligence, driving under the influence of alcohol, texting while driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

"This is an extremely tragic incident," said Mosby, who said she had met with the victim's family. "I assured them that no one is above the law." Mosby said Cook, elected last year to the No. 2 position in the diocese despite the fact that she had



State's attorney Marilyn Mosby discusses the indictment of Heather Cook, an Episcopal bishop who killed a cyclist in a hit-and-run accident last month, in Baltimore, Jan. 9, 2015. Mosby said Cook was both drunk and texting at the time, and would face full charges in a case that has generated questions about why the bishop was not immediately arrested.

(Matt Roth/The New York Times)

been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol in 2010, was found to have a 0.22 blood alcohol level when brought to the police station after she returned to the scene of the accident. Church officials said earlier that Cook was driving the car that killed Palermo, the father of two children who was hit in

broad daylight while riding in a bike lane on the northern edge of town. Mosby said Cook was texting while driving and veered into the right lane and struck him. Palermo died at an area hospital shortly after. The bishop left the scene of the accident and went home before returning roughly 20 minutes later.

high-crime city with a reputation for aggressive law enforcement tactics. The police declined to arrest Cook immediately or reveal whether she had been tested for intoxication.

On Friday, Palermo's sister-in-law, Alisa Wolf, placed a fresh bouquet of flowers at a makeshift memorial where the accident occurred. "We are grateful for the attention that has been given to this case," said Wolf, the sister of Palermo's wife, Rachael. "This should have been a safe place for him to be."

Cook has been placed on administrative leave and has been barred from all ministry activities while the police and internal church investigations continue, said Sharon Tillman, a spokeswoman for the diocese. "We are cooperating fully with Baltimore city police," she said. □

The case has attracted attention and generated questions about fairness in a

Police say girl was alive when father tossed her over bridge

TAMARA LUSH

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)

— Five-year-old Phoebe Jonchuck was likely alive when her father dropped her over a bridge railing, sending her into the waters of Florida's Tampa Bay, police said Friday.

Detectives said they had "preliminary evidence" indicating Phoebe was alive, but they wouldn't say specifically what it was. Police previously said an officer who saw John Jonchuck drop Phoebe from the bridge may have heard her scream.

Her body was found in the water a couple of hours later. An autopsy is pending. Detectives obtained a search warrant for Jonchuck's car and found a pink booster seat, cellphone and religious items they would not describe. Hours before Phoebe's death, Jonchuck called his attorney "God" and asked her to translate a Bible, police said.

The comments prompted his attorney to call police and a child welfare abuse hotline, but when police interviewed Jonchuck in person, he appeared fine and

Phoebe was smiling and holding his hand. He said he want to hurt himself or his little girl and had "new clarity in his life."

Jonchuck was charged with murder. It's not clear if he has an attorney. At a court hearing Thursday, a judge asked him if he wanted an attorney and he said: "I want to leave it in the hands of God."

Police are trying to piece together a timeline of Jonchuck's week. Detectives think he might have spoken to members of a Tampa-area church in the days before dropping his daughter over the bridge. Officials are especially interested in anyone who might have seen Jonchuck, his daughter, or his PT Cruiser vehicle on Wednesday.

Phoebe's death led state's child welfare agency to revamp how it handles calls to its abuse line, requiring officials to respond within four hours if a caregiver is believed to be experiencing a psychotic episode. Jonchuck's attorney called the Florida Department of Children and Families hotline at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, saying Jonchuck was "depressed and delusional." □



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US Financial Front:

2014 was best hiring year since '99; jobless rate 5.6%

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States capped its best year for hiring in 15 years with a healthy gain in December, and the unemployment rate hit a six-year low. The numbers support expectations that the United States will strengthen further this year even as overseas economies stumble.

Employers added 252,000 jobs last month and 50,000 more in October and November combined than the government had previously estimated, the Labor Department said Friday. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.6 percent from 5.8 percent in November. The rate is now at its lowest point since 2008. Still, wage growth remains weak. Average hourly pay slipped 5 cents in December. And one reason the unemployment rate fell had nothing to do with more hiring: Many of the jobless gave up looking for work and so were no longer counted as unemployed. Even so, nearly 3 million more people are earning paychecks than at the start of 2014 — the best annual job gain since 1999. Gas prices have also plunged, which will give consumers — the main driver of the U.S. economy — a further boost in coming months. Though December's hiring didn't match November's huge 353,000 gain, monthly job growth in the final three months of 2014 averaged 289,000. That was up sharply from the 239,000 average for the third quarter of 2014. "We are in a recovery that is accelerating," said Michael Strain, an economist



Joe Wilhelm, left, a recruiter with payment processing company First Data Corp., shakes hands with U.S. Army Spc. Vincent Knowles, at a job fair that was part of a "transition summit" at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. The Labor Department released employment data for December 2014 on Friday, Jan. 9, 2015.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank. The unemployment rate is now near the 5.2 percent to 5.5 percent range that the Federal Reserve considers consistent with a healthy economy

— one reason the Fed has been expected to raise interest rates from record lows by midyear. Yet for now, the plummeting oil prices and weak pay growth are helping keep inflation even lower than the

Fed's 2 percent target rate. Many economists think inflation may fail to reach even 1 percent this year. A result is that the Fed could feel pressure to avoid raising rates anytime soon. "There is still room for stimu-

lus without having to worry about inflation taking off," Strain said.

Most economists forecast that the U.S. economy will expand more than 3 percent this year. If it does, 2015 would mark the first time in a decade that growth has reached that level for a calendar year.

In December, hiring was widespread across most industries. Construction firms added 48,000 jobs, the most since January. Manufacturers gained 17,000.

One industry where hiring slowed in December was retailing, which cut back after staffing up in November for the holiday shopping season.

Overall, American businesses have been largely shrugging off signs of economic weakness overseas and continuing to hire at solid rates. The U.S. economy's steady improvement is especially striking compared with the weakness in much of the world. □

US wholesale businesses boost stockpiles 0.8%

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. wholesale businesses added to their stockpiles by the largest amount in seven months in November while sales fell.

Inventories held by wholesalers increased 0.8 percent in November after a 0.6 percent rise in October, the Commerce Department reported Friday. It was the biggest uptick in stockpiles since a 1 percent jump in April.

Sales at the wholesale level dropped 0.3 percent in November after no gain in October. It was the biggest

decline since a 0.8 percent dip in August.

While businesses could start cutting back on their stockpiling if sales do not improve, economists are forecasting a rebound in coming months that should encourage companies to restock their empty store shelves. Inventory rebuilding supports overall economic growth.

With the November increase, wholesale stockpiles totaled \$547.2 billion, an increase of 7.1 percent in the past 12 months.

The rise in inventories included a 0.6 percent increase in auto stockpiles

and a 2.6 percent jump in computer equipment.

Part of that optimism stems from a string of strong monthly gains in employment, which means consumers have more income to spend. Moreover the fall in gas prices means shoppers will have more to spend on other items.

In a separate report Friday, the government said that businesses created 252,000 jobs in December, capping the best year for job growth in 15 years. The job gains pushed unemployment down to 5.6 percent in December, the lowest level since mid-2008.

The expected rebound in consumer demand should spur further inventory restocking and provide support for economic growth. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

Some economists have been revising higher their expectations for overall growth in the fourth quarter. Some are now saying activity could come in around 3 percent at an annual rate, as measured by the gross domestic product. That projection is up from many initial forecasts for growth of 2.5 percent or less in the fourth quarter. □

American Living:

New York City Mayor, Police Both Get Blame for Standoff

N.R. KLEINFELD

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NEW YORK - It is understandable that New Yorkers might think they are witnessing something scripted for a grade school playground. In the stubborn showdown between the police and Mayor Bill de Blasio - turned backs, forgiven infractions - many citizens can only watch with sentiments that flow from bemusement to revulsion, if not a mixture of both.

Lisa Dokken was struck when, while running along the water near her home in Battery Park City the other afternoon, she noticed a police officer dawdling near a patrol car smoking a cigar. She has nothing against people taking occasional breaks, but said she thought: "This just does not seem right. You smoke a cigar after you have a big dinner and a cognac." Dokken, 52, a part-time environmental consultant and graduate student, both feels the police generally do a good job and

empathizes with those who believe they are unjustly targeted by law enforcement. But she is appalled

participants in the current showdown, especially the police.

"We pay them to do a job,"

them "infantile" or "sulky children." Some feel they should be docked pay. Or fired. Others roundly criti-

of three. His oldest child is a 17-year-old son. Bell said he considered his son when he thought about the impasse. Both have had run-ins with the police.

Bell said he was once arrested by an officer who said he had seen him smoking marijuana the day before. His son, he said, was arrested after he swiped his MetroCard and allowed a friend to pass through the same turnstile with him. Bell strongly supports police reforms. At the same time, the drop in enforcement infuriates him. "It's a good thing," he said. "But it's not happening for a good reason."

He added: "As a civilian, who do I have faith in if my mayor has no control over his police commissioner, who has no control over his officers. Who do I trust? Who do I tell my 17-year-old son to trust?"

The police also have firm supporters who are untroubled by their manner of protest.

Michael Urbaez, 31, a carpenter from the Bronx, does not especially like the slow-down but feels the police are warranted in showing their disdain for de Blasio, whom Urbaez considers a poor role model.

"I'm all for the cops," he said. "I understand what they go through in their daily life - my cousin is a cop. Today I see a lot of no respect everywhere. I take the train every day, I see kids with no morals."

For the perspective of those benefiting from relaxed enforcement, there is Gary Foster. He is 42, and said he supports himself selling untaxed cigarettes in Queensbridge. His past, he said, is marked by multiple arrests. In these respects, he bears a striking resemblance to Eric Garner, the man who died after being put in a police chokehold and whose death has played a pivotal role in the rift between de Blasio and the police.

"I get harassed more than the people with the guns," Foster said.



A New York Police Department cruiser sits covered in snow outside the 84th Precinct, home to two officers shot dead last month, in New York, Jan. 6, 2015. As the conflict between Mayor Bill de Blasio and the police force continued, criminal summons were down sharply for a second straight week — though not so much as to translate to an apparent spike in serious crime.

(Sam Hodgson/The New York Times)

at what she considers the immaturity shown by the

she said. "There's no excuse ever to have a slow-down. As a taxpayer of this community, it irks me."

A wide assortment of interviews conducted to gauge the temper of the public over the police-mayor strife found people blaming the police, people blaming the mayor, and many on both sides wanting a final act in this ugly play that seems stalled without an obvious ending.

For weeks, rank-and-file officers have shown their fury at de Blasio because they feel he disrespects them and disparages how they do their job. Thus many turned their backs to him during the funerals for the officers fatally shot in Brooklyn. Crime statistics covering two consecutive weeks have revealed a staggering plunge in arrests and tickets, particularly for low-level offenses and parking violations, as if some crimes had been suddenly wiped off the books.

Many citizens are clearly repulsed by how the police are expressing their anger. They have turned to calling

cize the mayor as the root of the problem.

Delby Angelo Rodriguez, 32, works the carving station at Katz's Delicatessen on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. He has family and friends on the police force. In his view, the slow-down boils down to good officers doing the wrong thing. "If they perform any less than they're supposed to, they're entitled to get fired," he said. "You've got to keep business and personal opinions separate." Ivy Zheng, 40, who lives in Queens and helps her husband with his point-of-sale and security-camera equipment business in Chinatown, said, speaking in Mandarin: "We should all support the police. Without the police what would we do - it's too scary to think about."

But she finds the slow-down inexcusable. "Aren't there rules and regulations for your work?" she said. "Should be even more so for police, no?"

Terrance Bell, 49, lives in the Bronx, owns a printing company and is a father

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Al-Qaida member in Yemen says group directed Paris attack

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula directed the attack against the French satirical maga-

ing on the group's Twitter feed commenting on the "blessed raid on Paris." He denounced the "filthy" French and called them "the heads of infidelity who

Al-Nadhari stopped short of directly claiming responsibility for the attack, but added, "How can we not fight those who hurt our prophet, slandered our re-

can live in peace. But if you only wish for war, then rejoice, you will not enjoy peace as long as you wage war on God and his prophets and fight Muslims."

It was not immediately clear why al-Nadhari did not outright said al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula was behind the attack. The member told the AP that the group as delaying its official declaration of responsibility for "security reasons."

"The leadership of AQAP directed the operations and they have chosen their target carefully as revenge for the honor of the prophet," the al-Qaida member said. He said France was targeted "because of its obvious role in the war on Islam and oppressed nations."

He warned that "touching Muslims' sanctity and protecting those who make blasphemy have a dear price and the punishment will be severe" and that "the crimes of the Western countries, above them America, Britain and

France will backfire deep in their home."

He said the group will continue the policy by al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahiri of "hitting the snake's head ... until the West retreats." He also cited the late al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden's warnings of the consequences of blasphemy against Muslim sanctities.

The member spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized by the group to give his name. His same comments in Arabic was later posted on Twitter by users known to be supporters of AQAP. Witnesses to Wednesday's assault in Paris said Said Kouachi, the elder of the two brothers who stormed the Charlie Hebdo offices, claimed allegiance to the Yemeni group during the attack. His 32-year-old brother, Cherif Kouachi, was convicted of terrorism charges in 2008 for ties to a network sending jihadis to fight U.S. forces in Iraq. The brothers were killed Friday in a gunbattle with French police. □



This photo shows a general view of Radaa city, southeast of Sanaa, Yemen where around 200 al-Qaida militants occupied a 500-year-old mosque and school and their surroundings in the central province of Bayda. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, suspected of having ties to the attackers in Paris, has been the most active of the terror network's branches in trying to strike in the West. (AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

zine Charlie Hebdo in Paris "as revenge for the honor" of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, a member of the group told The Associated Press on Friday.

At least one of the two brothers involved in the attack travelled to Yemen in 2011 and either received training from or fought alongside the group, according to U.S. and Yemeni officials. A U.S. intelligence assessment described to the AP shows that Said Kouachi was trained in preparation to return home and carry out an attack. If confirmed, the attack would be the first time al-Qaida's branch in Yemen has successfully carried out an operation in the West after at least two earlier attempts.

Soon after, the branch's senior cleric Sheikh Harith al-Nadhari issued a record-

insult the prophets." He praised the "hero mujahedeen" who he said "taught them a lesson and the limits of freedom of speech."

ligion and fought the faithful."

Addressing the French, he said, "It better for you to stop striking Muslims so you

Officials: Pings detected from AirAsia black boxes

JOE COCHRANE
© 2015 New York Times
JAKARTA, Indonesia

Search teams have detected pinging from the so-called black boxes of the AirAsia plane that crashed into the Java Sea, Indonesian officials said Friday, as divers resumed attempts to reach the doomed aircraft's tail fin in hopes of finding the devices inside or nearby.

Tatang Zainuddin, deputy chief of operations for the National Search and Rescue Agency, said a research ship from Indonesia's Agency for Assessment and Application of Technol-

ogy had picked up pinging from the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders Thursday afternoon.

He said that the Sampson, a U.S. Navy destroyer taking part in the hunt, had also detected the pinging.

Tatang said that the authorities had not yet determined the recorders' exact coordinates.

Indonesia AirAsia Flight 8501 crashed into the Java Sea on Dec. 28 with 162 people aboard, less than an hour after taking off from the Indonesian city of Surabaya, bound for Singapore. Search teams had recovered the bodies of 45

victims as of Thursday night, 25 of which had been identified.

The cause of the crash remains unclear, although weather has been cited as a likely factor.

On Wednesday, the Indonesian authorities announced a key break in the search with the discovery of the tail section of the Airbus A320-200, where the flight data and cockpit voice recorders are housed. Officials have said they hope that recovering the recorders will help explain what happened to the plane, which crashed amid inclement weather.

On Friday, Indonesian divers resumed an attempt to bring the aircraft's tail section up from beneath more than 100 feet of water using special lifting balloons, after being forced to suspend the mission Thursday because of severe underwater currents, according to officials.

Santoso Sayogo, an investigator with Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee, said Friday that it appeared the black boxes were no longer inside the tail section of the aircraft and that divers were trying to pinpoint their location, Reuters reported. □

Ukraine says separatists intensifying attacks

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — At least six Ukrainian troops have been killed in more than two days of fighting as separatists intensified shelling of government positions ahead of peace talks expected in the coming week, Ukrainian military officials said Friday.

The press office for military operations in eastern Ukraine said army outposts had been targeted 50 times by small arms fire, mortars and rockets over the past day. Separatists accused the Ukrainian army of likewise mounting dozens of rocket attacks throughout Thursday and into Friday.

The intensification in hostilities comes one month after a renewed truce led to a marked lull in the fighting that originally broke out in the spring.

Military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said Friday that four soldiers died in fighting over the previous day. Later, the National Guard said in a statement that two of its servicemen were killed during an armed clash Friday outside the separatist-held city of Luhansk. An AP reporter heard rockets being fired Thursday evening into the separatist stronghold of Donetsk — an indication that government forces are breaching the ceasefire. Separatist authorities

in Donetsk said Friday that a hospital building was struck by artillery fire earlier in the week, but that there were no casualties. Leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France are expected to meet

In a signal of possible softening of positions in Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Thursday that there are "some limited positive signs on the Russian side." Ukrainian Foreign Minis-

spokesmen have reported an uptick in shelling by separatists and the resumption in the use of Grad and Uragan multiple rocket launchers. At least four villages were hit by Grad rockets Thursday, of-



A pro-Russian rebel guards the road near the airport of Donetsk, with Ukrainian military vehicles at rear, Eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian soldiers took up duties this week at the Donetsk Airport, the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in eastern Ukraine. The 50 soldiers in a convoy of four trucks were provided safe passage to the airport by rebel forces, who gave them gifts in celebration of Orthodox Christmas.

(AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov)

Thursday in Kazakhstan to consider solutions to the conflict. The talks, not yet confirmed, will be seen as an attempt by Moscow to seek a softening of EU sanctions imposed last year in response to its annexation of Crimea and its perceived material support of separatist forces in Ukraine.

ter Pavlo Klimkin said on his Twitter account Friday that he will meet with his counterparts from Russia, Germany and France for talks in Berlin on Monday. On the ground in Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions, there have been indications of mounting tensions in recent days. Ukrainian military press

officials said.

An AP reporter heard outgoing mortars being fired Friday morning from a rebel-controlled area situated around one kilometer (half a mile) from an orphanage that was supposed to be receiving a visit from the Donetsk separatist leader, until it was canceled. □

Russia: transgender people are among those unfit to drive

LYNN BERRY
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — New Russian road safety regulations bar transsexuals, transvestites and others with sexual "disorders" from driving, ostensibly for medical reasons.

The new regulations have been criticized by rights activists, who see them as unconstitutional and likely to exacerbate an already hostile climate for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Russia.

"The new Russian rules banning people from driving because of their gender identity are ridiculous and unlawful," Nils Muiznieks, human rights commissioner for the Council of Europe, said in a message posted Friday on Facebook. He urged Russia "to immediately amend the rules to remove this ban."

The government resolution, dated Dec. 29 and signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, lists numerous medical conditions, including "mental and behavioral disorders" defined by the World Health Organization, that the government believes disqualify a person for a driving license.

The resolution does not claim WHO endorsement for the new driving restrictions. "That is certainly not the intent of WHO's classifications," said Shekhar Saxena, director of WHO's mental health department. He said they were meant to lead to more reliable diagnosis, so "for example, when someone is diagnosed with a disease in Germany, they would get the same diagnosis in France."

The WHO classification contains "gender identity disorders" such as transsexualism and "disorders of sexual preference," including fetishism and voyeurism. The organization, which has been under pressure for years to stop considering transgender people as mentally ill, is currently revising its International Classification of Diseases, which came into use in 1994. The revised version is due in 2017, according to the WHO website. □

Salvador's Romero closer to beatification as martyr

NICOLE WINFIELD,
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Slain Salvadoran archbishop Oscar Romero has moved one step closer to beatification.

Avvenire, the newspaper of the Italian bishops' conference, reported Friday that a committee of theologians had confirmed that Romero died as a martyr. The designation means he can be beatified without having a miracle attributed to his intercession. A miracle is needed, however, for him to be made a saint.

Romero was gunned down by a right-wing death squad in 1980 while celebrating Mass. He had spoken out against repression by the Salvadoran army at the beginning of the country's 1980-1992 civil war between the right-wing government and leftist rebels. A commission of cardinals and bishops must now sign off on the martyrdom designation and pass it on to Pope Francis for final approval. If approved, the long-awaited beatification could take place this year.

Francis, who has made

clear he wants to see Romero beatified, has said he plans to visit three unnamed Latin American countries in 2015, with El Salvador often cited as a contender. A Salvador trip would enable Francis to personally beatify the hero of many Latin American Catholics in his native land. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, declined to confirm or deny the Avvenire report, citing his practice of not commenting on intermediate steps of saint-making cases. But he noted that Francis recently cited

Romero during a general audience, "meaning he is following the cause with attention and interest."

Romero's saint-making case had been stalled in the Vatican for years because of his support for liberation theology. It has charged ahead under the first Latin American pope.

The Salvadoran government said it was overjoyed with the news.

President Salvador Sanchez Ceren said a big celebration, with Latin American leaders invited, was planned for the beatification. □



Seoul to deport American over North Korea comments

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea plans to deport a Korean-American woman accused of praising rival North Korea in a recent lecture, officials said Friday, in the latest in a series of cases that critics say infringe on freedom of speech.

The Korea Immigration Service decided to deport Shin Eun-mi, a California resident, after determining that her comments violated South Korea's Security Law, agency official Kim Du-yeol said. He declined to say when she would be deported, citing privacy issues.

The Korean Peninsula remains technically in a state of war, split along the world's most heavily fortified border, because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Shin had been barred from exiting South Korea for three weeks, and the U.S. has

seen reports indicating the prosecution has asked for her to be deported and banned from the country for five years.

In a rare note of criticism of a key ally, Psaki said that despite South Korea's generally strong record on human rights, the security law limits freedom of expression and restricts access to the Internet.

Supporters argue that the law is needed because of continuing threats from North Korea. But critics want it scrapped. Past authoritarian leaders in South Korea frequently used the law to suppress political rivals.

Shin posted stories about her trips to North Korea on OhmyNews, a popular South Korean online news site. Her book on her trips was included in a government-designated reading list in 2013, but the culture ministry removed it this week amid criticism of it. Ministry officials said they will seek to retrieve 1,200 copies that were distributed to libraries across South Korea.

During a November lecture

in Seoul, Shin said many North Korean defectors living in South Korea had told her they want to go back home and that North Koreans hope new leader Kim

intention of praising the country and was only expressing what she felt during her travels there.

Conservatives have sided with government

liberals who say the conservative government of President Park Geun-hye is clamping down on freedom of speech.

"The decision to deport her is a clear violation of human rights," the Hankyoreh newspaper said in an editorial Friday. "The government is taking the lead in trampling on human rights." At the United Nations, the deputy spokesman for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Farhan Haq, told reporters: "The secretary-general's position on freedom of expression and freedom of opinion is well known. ... That would apply here as well." Ban is South Korean.

In October, prosecutors indicted a Japanese journalist on charges he defamed Park by reporting rumors that she was absent for seven hours on the day of a ferry disaster last April because she was with a man. Last month, the Constitutional Court ordered the dissolution of a small leftist party that officials say advocated a North Korean-style socialist system.



California-resident Shin Eun-mi, center, talks to the reporters at Seoul District Prosecutors' Office in Seoul, South Korea. South Korean officials said Friday, Jan. 9 they were considering whether to deport the Korean-American woman accused of praising rival North Korea during a recent lecture.

(AP Photo/Yonhap, Park Ji-ho)

Jong Un will bring change. She also praised the taste of North Korean beer and the cleanliness of North Korea's rivers.

Shin has said she had no

moves to expel Shin, accusing her of ignoring North Korea's abysmal human rights conditions. But her impending deportation drew sharp criticism from

Sri Lankan president Rajapaksa appears to lose election

ELLEN BARRY
DHARISHA BASTIANS
© 2015 New York Times

NEW DELHI - With early counting showing Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa trailing his challenger, the former health minister Maithripala Sirisena, a presidential spokesman has told local media that Rajapaksa had left his official residence "to allow the new president to assume his duties."

"President Mahinda Rajapaksa has left Temple Trees a short while ago," said the statement from Wijeyananda Herath, Rajapaksa's

media director "President Rajapaksa said he is leaving in order to respect the verdict of the people."

It added that Rajapaksa had held a pre-dawn meeting with Ranil Wickramasinghe, the leader of the opposition United National Party, during which he informed Wickramasinghe that he would leave to allow his successor to assume power.

Rajapaksa's son Namal wrote on Twitter that his family had accepted the results.

"Thank you to everyone who supported us through

these years," he said. "We respect the voice of the people and Sri Lanka's great democracy."

Voters in Sri Lanka turned out in unusually high numbers on Thursday for the election, which became a referendum on the performance of Rajapaksa, a larger-than-life figure who during nearly a decade in office has built close ties with China, begun a campaign of "megadevelopment" and sharply centralized power in one of Asia's oldest democracies.

Rajapaksa's defeat is remarkable because he had

an overwhelming advantage going into the election, which he decided to hold two years ahead of schedule. His image is ubiquitous in Sri Lanka's public spaces. Campaign rallies were opulent, well-funded affairs, where he addressed a sea of voters bused in from surrounding villages. Sirisena, unable to book stadiums, spoke to people gathered in vacant lots.

The upset introduces significant uncertainty. Sirisena has promised to abolish the strong presidency introduced by Rajapaksa and return the country to a

parliamentary system, but the coalition around him is a sprawling, diverse one, including Buddhist nationalists, Marxists, and center-right politicians, among others. Dayan Jayatilleka, a former diplomat who had supported Rajapaksa's re-election bid in recent weeks, said late Thursday that he expected some turbulence to emerge in the coming months.

"The opposition will certainly have a transition plan, and chances of instability are small, because the state machinery will switch to the winner," he said.

Trinidad warns of major cuts amid drop in oil prices

TONY FRASER

Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad

(AP) — Trinidad & Tobago's prime minister warned late Thursday of major cuts in expenditures following a sharp drop in oil prices that has forced the government of the wealthy twin-island nation to reduce its projected revenue this year. Trinidad expected to earn

\$80 per barrel of oil but has revised that to \$45 per barrel, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said in a televised address. The government has subsequently reduced expenditures by \$7 million, and more cuts are expected.

The country is a major fuel supplier for the U.S. and other nations thanks to oil and natural gas reserves

that make it among the most prosperous in the Caribbean. Oil and gas make up about 40 percent of the island's GDP and 80 percent of exports, with Trinidad having one of highest per capita incomes in Latin America.

Falling energy prices have led to a \$1.18 billion deficit, Persad-Bissessar said, adding that the government

plans to help close the gap by selling 49 percent of government shares in a state-owned, gas-processing company.

Persad-Bissessar pledged to uphold social welfare programs, among other things.

"We shall also ensure that the pace of business activity continues to protect jobs and personal incomes, and

to continue with critical infrastructure projects such as roads and to support education and health," she said.

The drop in oil prices has had at least one positive effect in Trinidad: the government expects to save \$235 million on a subsidy it pays oil companies so local consumers can buy cheaper gasoline. □

Cuba to reopen twin of US Capitol building as relations warm

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel

Castro's rebels swept into Havana 56 years ago this month and went to work purging the U.S. legacy from a capital that had been a virtual outpost of Washington.

The Havana Hilton became the Havana Libre. Neon Coca-Cola signs were torn down. And the new government moved Cuba's legislature out of the near-perfect replica of the U.S. Capitol building that had loomed over Havana for 30 years, a reminder of American influence. The 300-foot neoclassical white dome later housed the Cuban Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Technology and then, like so much of Havana, it fell into disrepair. Drain pipes broke, paint yellowed and wide cracks opened in the gold-leafed dome, turning the building into an eyesore in the heart of historic central Havana.



This photo shows the Egyptian onyx statue of a maiden warrior that symbolizes the republic standing inside the capitol which is undergoing renovation in Havana, Cuba. Cuba's legislature moved out of the neoclassical building in 1959 and was instead used by the Cuban Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Technology. In March 2015, Cuba's National Assembly will move back in thanks to the first phase of a massive renovation project.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

But in March, Cuba's National Assembly will move back into the capitol thanks to the first phase of an extensive renovation

project meant to restore the building to its former glory. The 600-member assembly meets twice a year to discuss, and almost

always unanimously approve, proposals written by Communist Party leaders behind closed doors.

The reopening of the capi-

tol to lawmakers carries a potent symbolism, coming as Cuba moves toward full diplomatic relations with the U.S. The timing of its reopening is coincidental, officials say. In another coincidence, the U.S. Capitol in Washington is undergoing a \$60 million renovation of its dome. "They're imitating us," joked city historian Eusebio Leal, whose office oversees restoration work in historic Old Havana. "I started first!"

Opened in 1929, the Cuban capitol is smaller than its U.S. counterpart overall but it is taller and its dome is bigger. Inside are massive granite stairs and a gigantic Egyptian onyx statue of a maiden warrior that symbolizes the republic.

The first phase of the renovation required the repair or replacement of drain and water pipes and wiring and involved extensive architectural work because the original plans for the building were mysteriously lost. □

No conflict seen in US, China influence in Latin America

BEIJING (AP) — Costa Rica's foreign minister said Friday he sees no conflict between the U.S.'s longstanding ties with Latin America and China's growing presence in the region.

China's hosting this week of a forum with 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries highlighted what some see as a rivalry for influence in Washington's traditional backyard.

However, Manuel Gonzalez said the region's foreign relations were not exclu-

sive and there was no reason why it couldn't maintain harmonious ties with both China and the U.S.

"We are talking about a world not as black or white or right or wrong. We should have abandoned such a mindset long ago," Gonzalez said a news conference marking the end of the two-day forum between China and the Latin American Grouping known as CELAC.

At this week's forum, which Gonzalez co-chaired, Chi-

na pledged billions of dollars of investment in regional projects and set a target of almost doubling two-way trade to \$500 billion over the next 10 years. Chinese investment in the region aims to increase to \$250 billion over the next five years, including a new \$20 billion financing agreement with Venezuela, whose leftist government has been struggling with a financial crisis brought on in part by tumbling oil prices. Gonzalez recognized the

importance of historical ties with the United States, which has traditionally dominated the region's economies and remains its biggest trading partner.

"We are on the same hemisphere, but that isn't an obstacle to our development of relations with China," he said.

China too has been seeking to allay concerns over its hosting of the forum, which was organized in just six months following Chinese President Xi Jinping's

attendance at a regional gathering in Brazil last August. This week's gathering resulted in the adoption of a five-year outline for inter-regional development, as well as plans to institutionalize the forum, which will next be hosted by Chile in 2018.

"It will not affect or displace our respective cooperation and exchanges with other developing countries or developed countries," Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the news conference. □



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi All Inclusive Resorts

EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple and a very nice gentleman whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill at the Divi All Inclusive Resort.

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The honorees were Mr. Stephen Prizio from Revere, Massachusetts, who is on vacation with his whole family, and Mr. Michael and Mrs. Brenda McDonnell from South Dennis, Massachusetts.

The honorees are loyal guests of the Divi Resorts and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the staff at the Divi Resorts, the



relaxation, and because being on Aruba and staying at the Divi is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing

the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family and friends of the honorees, Mr. Francis Ridderstap and staff members of the Divi Resort. □

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tails at our daily fun filled happy hours. Don't forget to ask for Rey, our Top "Mixologist," and his "cocktail of the day." So whether you want to

cheer on your favorite NFL team this weekend or enjoy a relaxing cocktail out on the terrace, Touchdown Sports Bar & Grill is the place to be! ☐



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Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Kitchen Table by White: Fresh, Authentic Island Flavors

PALM BEACH - Island gourmards and vacationers who appreciate fine dining are buzzing about the unique experience of Kitchen Table by White, which opened in Blue Residences this summer. Helmed by Chef Urvin Croes, founder of White Modern Cuisine, Kitchen Table boasts that same attention to detail that made his first venture such a success, along with a vibrant, passionate staff dedicated to the concept of elevating traditional Aruban and Caribbean dishes to the realm of haute cuisine.

"Aruba has more than its share of French/Italian/fast food restaurants and steakhouses," observes Chef Urvin, "but I honestly believe that island visitors are looking for a distinctive experience, not something they can have at home any time. During their stay, they wish to savor the authentic flavors of the region, and we have sought out fresh,

locally grown ingredients and interpreted traditional island dishes in a manner to surprise and please the most finicky critic."

Urvin and his team are all graduates of Aruba's highly-respected EPI Culinary



Institute. He continued his studies at the ROC Gildewaart College, Nieuwegein, then apprenticed at the Brasserie Goeie Luisa, advancing to become their Chef de Partie. Urvin further developed his culinary skills during five years

at the famed Michelin 5* rated Grand Restaurant Karel V, perfectly his art before returning to Aruba to open his own eatery.

Second in command, Sous Chef Ludovico Henriquez, and the Kitchen Table

staff, consisting of Claude Werleman, Moises Ramirez and Jefferson Ramirez, are equally passionate about the concept of food as art. Watching them create the spectacular dishes in the elegant but cozy surroundings is a great part of the

evening's entertainment. The multi-course meal is a feast for the eyes as well as the tastebuds; the inventive uses of just-picked regional flowers and herbs such as frangipani, moringa, mata di seda and koko robona are explained, so diners can truly comprehend the careful thought and preparation that goes into each dish.

Rounding out the Kitchen Table culinary team is Restaurant Manager and Wine Sommelier Carlito Castillo, who thoroughly enjoys sharing his love of fine vintages and has a deft touch at pairing them to perfection. His enthusiasm for the delicate art of enhancing the flavors of both the wine and food with an ideal match is as infectious as his ready smile and congenial charm. He spent ten years in the kitchens of the Royal Caribbean cruise lines, where as a novice to the food service industry he discovered their wine cel-



lars. His passion for the art won him first place among over 1500 employees during a stringent wine testing contest among all the line's culinary staffers. Discover island cuisine elevated to an elegant but intimate dining experience at Kitchen Table. Seating is extremely limited with only 14 reservations accepted nightly and four held for spur-of-the-moment gourmards. Reserve early online via reservations@ktby-white.com, or call 528-7015.



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NOORD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees are Mr. Larry and Mrs. Brenda Pittman of North Carolina. The honorees love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the



weather, the beaches, the relaxation, and because being on Aruba is like be-

ing home for them. The certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba

representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Mislady Fingal. □



Roger Federer of Switzerland waves at the crowd after he won his quarter final match against James Duckworth of Australia 6-0, 6-1 during the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015.

Associated Press

Federer follows next gen trio into Brisbane semis

AP Sports Writer

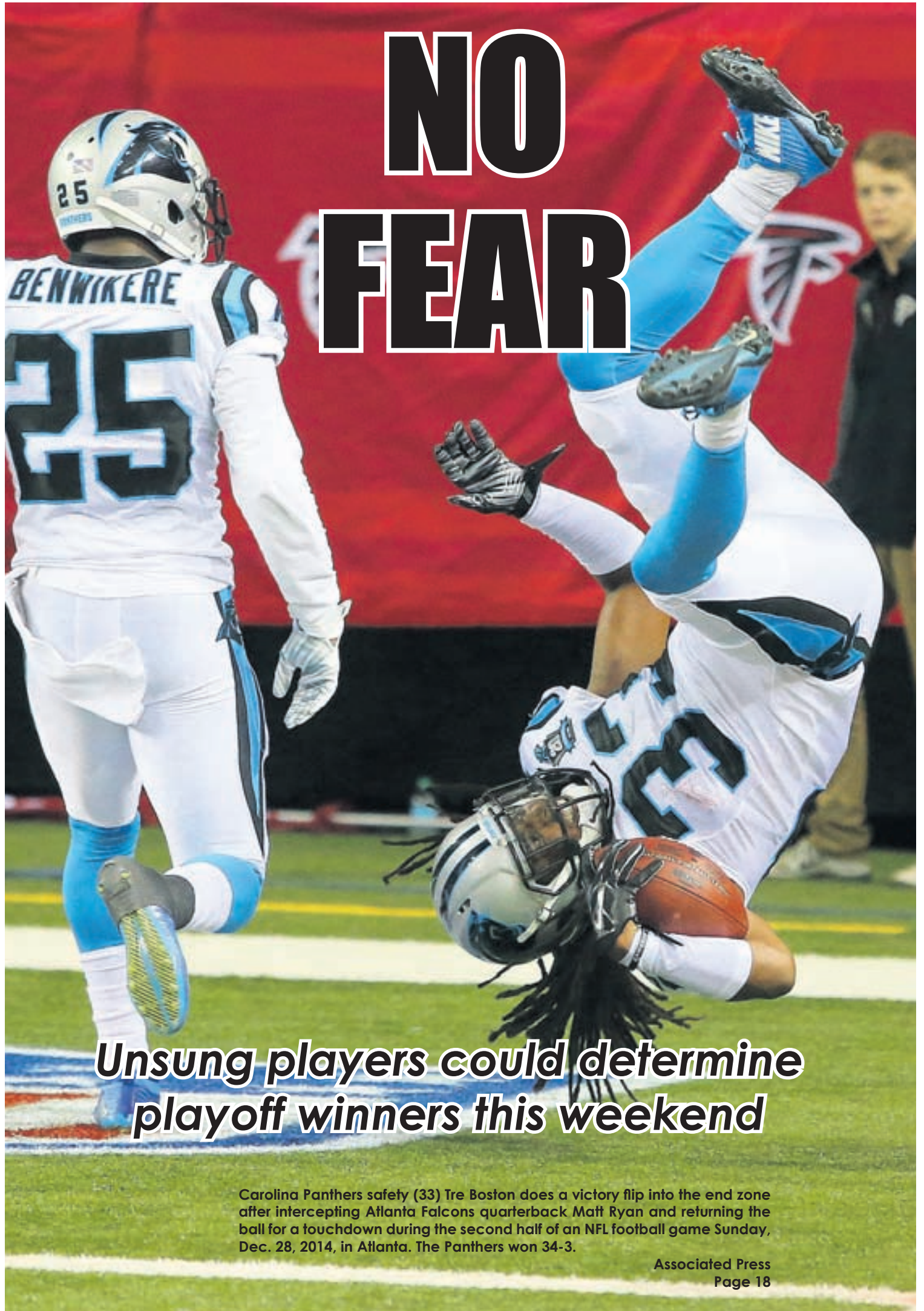
BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Roger Federer saw what a trio of next generation Grand Slam contenders had to offer Friday before putting on a show of his own, disposing of Australian wild card James Duckworth in 39 minutes to move into the Brisbane International semifinals.

Top-seeded Federer dropped only six points in a 16-minute first set, and won 6-0, 6-1 without really breaking a sweat against No. 125-ranked Duckworth — a vast contrast to his rusty, three-set opening win over John Millman the previous night.

"I had a great start to the match," Federer said. "I saved energy and stress and nerves."

"Yesterday was quite nerve-wracking and physically difficult because it was first match of the season. So I'm very happy I got it done quickly today." The 17-time major winner will next meet No. 4-seeded Grigor Dimitrov, who advanced a 6-3, 6-4 winner over Martin Klizan of Slovakia.

Continued on Page 22



Carolina Panthers safety (33) Tre Boston does a victory flip into the end zone after intercepting Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan and returning the ball for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014, in Atlanta. The Panthers won 34-3.

Associated Press
Page 18

No fear is motto for visiting teams this weekend

The Associated Press

The Patriots hold no fear for the Baltimore Ravens, not in the NFL playoffs, and definitely not in New England.

The Ravens have a history of playoff success in a stadium where the Patriots rarely lose, and meet in Foxborough again on Saturday for the fourth time in six seasons.

The Ravens are 2-1 there against the Patriots. Their only loss, 23-20, was sealed when Billy Cundiff lined up for a 32-yard field goal with 15 seconds left and shanked it in the 2012 AFC Championship game.

"Bring 'em on," Baltimore linebacker Pernell McPhee said. "We're going to go up there and play our best game. We're going to play Ravens football. And with a great game plan, I know we'll be ready for anything."

No team over the past 40 years has traveled better



Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Terrell Suggs (55) intercepts a pass with his knees by Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) in the fourth quarter of an NFL wildcard playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Steelers, making Baltimore the only team to win on the road last weekend.

That provided the Ravens with the opportunity to eliminate the Patriots in New England, as they did in 2010 and 2013.

"It's a business trip, certainly," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "They're the No. 1 seed and we're the No. 6 seed. We understand what that means. But in the end, it's a game."

The Ravens have reached the postseason in six of Harbaugh's seven years as their head coach. They are 7-4 on the road over that span, leaving Harbaugh tied with Tom Coughlin and Tom Landry for the most road wins since the merger. Harbaugh says the team goes through the same routine, at home or away, and insists there's no big secret to his success.

Continued on next page

in the postseason than the Ravens, whose 10 road wins

are the most by any team since the 1970 merger.

No. 10 came at the expense of the hated Pittsburgh

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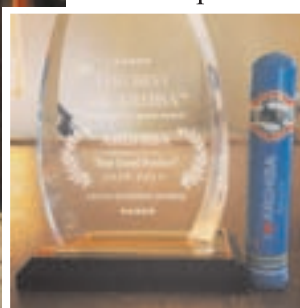
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers



Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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No fear

Continued from page 18

The Patriots are 15-4 at home during the postseason. Half of those defeats have come against the Ravens.

"They're physically and mentally tough," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said of the Ravens. "They can play in tough situations and they're talented. They keep coming at you."

Both teams are led by Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks, Joe Flacco for the Ravens and Tom Brady for the Patriots.

Flacco has won his last five playoff games, throwing 13 touchdowns and no interceptions. After Baltimore won the 2013 Super Bowl, Flacco received a contract worth \$120.6 million that made him the highest-paid player in NFL history.

To this point, it's been a worthwhile investment. Although the Ravens went 8-8 and missed the playoffs last year, they've never



Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton (1) looks to pass against the Arizona Cardinals in the first half of an NFL wild card playoff football game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015.

Associated Press

had a losing record and are 82-44 (including the postseason) with Flacco as a starter. And he's started every game since the outset of his rookie year. Brady is 2-3 in his last five playoff games with seven touchdown passes and

three interceptions. His offensive line should be back intact after left guard Dan Connolly missed the last two games with a knee injury. For all the inherent hype surrounding quarterbacks Russell Wilson of Seattle and Cam Newton

of Carolina entering the second playoff game on Saturday, this one could be determined by the teams' two defensive play callers. The past three meetings between the Seahawks and Panthers have resulted in low-scoring matchups,

hardly a surprise given the men manning the middle of those defenses, Seattle's Bobby Wagner and Carolina's Luke Kuechly. The Seahawks won those games 16-12 in 2012, 12-7 in 2013 and 13-9 in October, although Wagner didn't play in the most recent game due to a turf toe injury. Kuechly was the catalyst for the Panthers holding the Arizona Cardinals to 78 yards in last week's wild-card game, an NFL postseason record for fewest yards in a game. Wagner is the driven leader of the Seattle defense, which has finished first in the league in each of the past two seasons.

"We're the quarterback of the defense so we should get as much recognition as the quarterback," Wagner said. "It's a fun position. We're in the middle of everything. We have a job during the run, have a job on the pass, get sacks, interceptions, tackles. We're pretty much involved. It's the best position in my opinion."

Brrr! While Packers prepare in cold, Cowboys appear unfazed

The Associated Press

The elements are just where the Green Bay Packers want them for the visit by the Dallas Cowboys in the NFL playoffs on Sunday.

The forecast for the lunchtime kickoff calls for partly cloudy skies and minus-6 degrees C. That's balmy compared to the arctic front that encased Green Bay at midweek, when temperatures hovered near minus-18.

Ball security is at a premium in the playoffs, and receivers — and the defensive backs trying to snare interceptions — must be prepared for the sting that comes with trying to catch a cold ball.

"Whoever handles the ball best in the cold is going to come up on top. We definitely have the advantage," Packers cornerback and special teams ace Jarrrett Bush said.

The weather won't be as cold as when the teams last met in Green Bay in the postseason, for the 1967 NFC Championship, dubbed the Ice Bowl after being played in brutally cold conditions. It was minus-25 for that game at kickoff.

According to STATS, the Cowboys are 11-13 since 1991 in games played with the temperature lower



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) celebrates a touchdown against the Detroit Lions as tackle Tyron Smith (77) helps him up during the second half of an NFL wildcard playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.
Associated Press

NFL Preview

than 5 degrees. Their most recent game in that category: Dec. 4, when Dallas beat host Chicago 41-28.

"It comes down to what is your resistance to the cold, how much can you tolerate it," Cowboys cornerback Brandon Carr said. "This game, this time of the

season, get comfortable. ... Just be comfortable to be at your best."

Despite the result of the Ice Bowl, after which the Packers went on to win the second Super Bowl, Dallas leads 4-2 in playoff matchups. This marks the first time a team with an 8-0 home

record in the regular season hosts one with an 8-0 road record.

Dallas clearly plays well away from home no matter the conditions, and after a comeback home win over the Detroit Lions last Sunday, bring a high-powered offense paced by league rushing leader DeMarco Murray, quarterback Tony Romo, receiver Dez Bryant, and tight end Jason Witten. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers has been battling a left calf injury, but at less than 100 percent is still better than most passers in the league. He hasn't had an interception at home since December 2012.

Two other elite passers, Peyton Manning and Andrew Luck, headline the late Sunday matchup between the Denver Broncos and Indianapolis Colts. It's the five-time MVP against the young master who took his place in Indy when Manning headed to the Rocky Mountains.

Luck has thrown for 300 or more yards in three straight postseason games and comes off a strong effort in the win over Cincinnati: 376 yards and a touchdown. He broke Manning's team mark with 4,761 yards through the air this season. Manning, who led the Colts to eight division champion-

ships, two AFC Championships and one Super Bowl title, has the Broncos tied for the second-most wins (46) in the league since joining them.

As for the home-field thing, the Broncos are 8-0 this season, including 31-24 over the Colts in September.

Manning's numbers tend to dip when the thermometer does. He's 12-13 in his career when the temperature is 5 degrees or below, according to STATS.

This should warm up Manning and Broncos fans, however: Forecasters are calling for balmy conditions on game day, with the temperature starting off at 5, maybe a cool breeze, and no precipitation.

"Peyton is going to go out there and play well," declared running back C.J. Anderson. "But it takes a team and we have to help him."

Even if a cold front were to suddenly descend upon the city — this is Denver, after all — the Broncos are built for harsher conditions these days. They no longer rely so heavily on Manning's right arm but on a revamped running game and a dominant defense that features five Pro Bowlers.

Tiger Woods to begin his 2015 season in Phoenix

JUPITER, Florida (AP) — The rowdiest event on the U.S. PGA Tour landed golf's biggest attraction on Friday when Tiger Woods said he would play the Phoenix Open for the first time in 14 years.

The tournament starts on Jan. 29 and ends on the Sunday of the Super Bowl, which also is in Phoenix.

Woods also announced on his website he will play the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines a week later. That was no surprise, for Woods has won there eight times as a pro, including his

last major in the 2008 U.S. Open.

He has not played the Phoenix Open since 2001. And while Woods has made only three appearances at the TPC Scottsdale, he always generates news. Woods made an ace on the par-3 16th hole in 1997 and was showered with beer cups over the sheer emotion of the moment.

He was criticized in 1999 when he was permitted to let fans move a massive boulder in front of his ball after it was declared a loose impediment. Also

that year, a spectator who had been heckling Woods was found with a gun in his fanny pack.

In his most recent appearance in 2001, someone lobbed an orange onto the green while he was putting.

"It will be great to return to Phoenix," Woods said on his website. "The crowds are amazing and always enthusiastic, and the 16th hole is pretty unique in golf."

This is the time Woods usually starts his season. Torrey Pines and Phoenix



In this Dec. 7, 2014, file photo, Tiger Woods tees off on the fourth hole during the final round of the Hero World Challenge golf tournament in Windermere, Fla.

Associated Press

have switched spots on the calendar because the Phoenix Open prefers to end on Super Bowl Sunday. The biggest day at the tournament, with crowds estimated at over 500,000, is on Saturday.

Woods played only nine times worldwide last year because of surgery to his back and lingering issues. In his return after four months off, he tied for last in the World Challenge in Orlando, Florida.

Blazers burn up Heat 99-83 to close on NBA lead



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, drives to the basket past Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015. Lillard scored 16 points as the Blazers defeated the Heat 99-83.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and the Portland Trail Blazers used a big third quarter to beat the Miami Heat. Aldridge scored 10 points in the third, when the Blazers (28-8) outscored the Heat 33-16 to take control of the game. Wesley Matthews had 18 points, Damian Lillard 16 and Chris Kaman 10 for Portland. The Blazers grabbed 28 rebounds in the second half and outrebounded Miami 50-42 overall. Portland tied Golden State for most wins in the NBA this season.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 23 points. Chris Bosh had 18 and Hassan Whiteside 10 for the Heat (15-21). **ROCKETS 120, KNICKS 96** **NEW YORK (AP)** — James Harden had 25 points and nine assists in just three quarters and the Houston Rockets beat New York 120-96 on Thursday night to extend the Knicks' longest single-season losing streak to 14 games. The Rockets beat New York for the 11th straight time, though everyone is beating the Knicks these days. New York has lost 24 of its last 25 games to fall to an NBA-worst 5-34. Trevor Ariza added 18

points for the Rockets, who improved to just 4-4 in their last eight. Harden didn't reach his NBA-leading average of 26.8 points only because he was limited to 31 minutes, sitting out the fourth quarter with Houston already leading by 24. Rookie Travis Wear scored a season-high 21 points and Langston Galloway had 19 for the Knicks in his second game since being called up from the NBA Development League. New York's longest losing streak ever is 20 games over two seasons. The Knicks lost 12 straight at the end of the 1984-85 season, then dropped the first eight

76ers suspend Kirilenko for not joining team after trade

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The 76ers have suspended forward Andrei Kirilenko for not reporting to the team after his trade from the Brooklyn Nets last month. Coach Brett Brown confirmed the suspension during a shootaround before Friday night's game in Brooklyn. He says he had

been looking forward to coaching Kirilenko. It's not clear why Kirilenko hasn't joined the Sixers since the Dec. 11 trade. The deal sent forward Brandon Davies to the Nets for Kirilenko, a second-round pick in the 2020 draft, guard Jorge Gutierrez and cash. Kirilenko hasn't played

since Nov. 13 and has played sparingly in seven games this season. He has cited family matters as part of the reason for his absence. Brown said he had coffee with Kirilenko after the trade, and wouldn't have done that had he thought Kirilenko would not be part of the team. □

games of the 1985-86 season even after landing Patrick Ewing with the No. 1 pick in the draft. **HORNETS 103, RAPTORS 95** **TORONTO (AP)** — Gerald Henderson scored a season-high 31 points, Kemba Walker added 29 and Charlotte beat Toronto for its fourth straight victory. Walker made a jumper from just inside the 3-point

line with 19.6 seconds to give the Hornets a six-point lead. The point guard also had eight assists and seven rebounds in 41 minutes. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist added 10 points and 12 rebounds. Kyle Lowry led Toronto, coming off a six-game trip, with 24 points, seven assists and seven rebounds. Lou Williams added 15 points. □

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SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 12:10
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

MON-THUR 3:50 | 5:45 | 8:10
FRI 3:50 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:45
SAT 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10

ON TWO SCREENS

ANNA KENDRICK | MERYL STREEP

INTO THE WOODS

MON-THUR 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
FRI 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
SAT 2:00 | 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:45

HELEN MCCRORY | JEREMY IRVINE

THE WOMAN IN BLACK 2

MON-THUR 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

MARK WAHLBERG | JESSICA LANGE

THE GAMBLER

MON-THUR 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
SAT 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 7:00 | 9:30

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SUN & HOL 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20

IAN MCKELLEN | MARTIN FREEMAN

THE HOBBIT

MON-THUR 5:50 | 8:50
FRI 5:50 | 8:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50

QUENZHANÉ WALLIS | JAIME FOXX

Annie

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THUR 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
SAT 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:10

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PENGUINS

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Rangers top Kings 4-3 in Stanley Cup final rematch

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dan Boyle had a goal and an assist, Cam Talbot made 28 saves, and the New York Rangers held off the Los Angeles Kings for a 4-3 victory Thursday night in a rematch of last year's Stanley Cup finals.

Kevin Klein, Lee Stempniak and Martin St. Louis scored in a 5:46 span of the second period for the Rangers, who erased an early two-goal deficit and completed a Southern California sweep with their 12th win in 13 games overall.

Justin Williams scored two goals for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who returned from a four-day break with an inconsistent defensive effort.

Jonathan Quick stopped 22 shots, but his teammates struggled to keep up with the Rangers' speed and precision for parts of Los Angeles' fourth loss in five games. Tanner Pearson scored in the first period for Los Angeles. Williams got his second goal with 4:03 to play.

BRUINS 3, DEVILS 0

BOSTON (AP) — Milan Lucic scored two goals, and Niklas Svedberg earned his second NHL shutout behind three periods of stifling defense as Boston topped New Jersey.

Svedberg faced only 14 shots. Boston held New



New York Rangers goalie Cam Talbot watches a puck go past him during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Los Angeles Kings, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, in Los Angeles. The Rangers won 4-3. Associated Press

Jersey to three in the opening period and four in the second, three coming on a late power play that did nothing to spark the Devils. David Krejci and Torey Krug assisted on Lucic's power-play goal with 1:10 left in the first, and Carl Soderberg added an unassisted goal 8:31 into the second for the only scoring until Lucic tapped in an empty-netter with 12 seconds remaining.

Patrice Bergeron, who scored the winner Wednesday in Boston's overtime

victory at Pittsburgh, and Chris Kelly assisted on the final goal. It was the 700th career game for both.

New Jersey's Cory Schneider made 41 saves. **FLYERS 3, CAPITALS 2, OT PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Jakub Voracek scored 1:28 into overtime to lift Philadelphia over Washington.

Voracek scored his 16th goal of the season on the power play to give the Flyers their second win of the homestand.

Alex Ovechkin and Karl Alzner scored for the Capi-

tals, who twice blew one-goal leads.

R.J. Umberger and Sean Coururier also scored for the Flyers. Braden Holtby started a Washington goalie-record 17th straight game and played in his 23rd straight overall.

Philadelphia's Steve Mason, who left Wednesday's practice early due to soreness, stopped 26 shots.

HURRICANES 5, SABRES 2 RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Jeff Skinner scored one of Carolina's four goals in the second period, and the Hur-

ricanes sent Buffalo to its sixth straight loss.

Jiri Tlustý had a goal and an assist for the Hurricanes, who have won three of four. Carolina, last in the Eastern Conference, moved within one point of Buffalo.

Tlustý, Eric Staal and Victor Rask scored in a 69-second span late in the second period. Riley Nash added a goal in the third period.

Philip Varone scored both Buffalo goals in his second game this season.

Cam Ward made 18 saves for Carolina, which has gone 10 games without allowing a power-play goal. Buffalo's Jhonas Enroth stopped 26 shots.

BLUES 7, SHARKS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis scored the final four goals to turn a one-goal lead into a rout of San Jose.

Alexander Steen, Jay Bouwmeester, Paul Stastny, Jori Lehtera, T.J. Oshie, Patrik Berglund and David Backes all scored for the Blues, who have 20 goals in three games. Jaden Schwartz added three assists, and Brian Elliott made 25 saves.

The Blues beat the Sharks 7-2 on Saturday in San Jose and then defeated the Coyotes 6-0 on Tuesday in Arizona. St. Louis opened a seven-game homestand after playing 16 of 23 on the road. □

Continued from Page 17

No. 2-seeded Kei Nishikori and No. 3 Milos Raonic will meet in the other semifinal after beating Australians. The top two players in the women's draw will meet in the final after No. 1-seeded Maria Sharapova beat Elina Svitolina 6-1, 6-3, and No. 2 Ana Ivanovic had a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win over Varvara Lepchenko.

Federer and Dimitrov are often compared due to their styles, particularly the single-handed backhand, and they're both anticipating a great semifinal.

"I'm aware of the challenge," Federer said. "He's clearly expecting big things from himself this



Maria Sharapova of Russia plays a shot in her semi final match against Elina Svitolina of Ukraine during the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015.

Associated Press

year, I would assume.

"So, it's an opportunity for him more than for me, but I still think it's going to be a tough and good match for both of us."

Dimitrov has lost two previ-

ous matches to Federer — both at Basel — but is growing in confidence after rising to a career-high No. 8 ranking last August.

"I'm always excited when I get to play a match like

that against a player like that," Dimitrov said. "I have quite a bit of experience behind me now. I've learned from each match that I've played against him. I like my odds."

Nishikori, the U.S. Open finalist, breezed past Bernard Tomic 6-0, 6-4, while Raonic had more of a struggle against big-serving Sam Groth, winning 7-6 (3), 3-6, 7-6 (2).

Groth got the only break of serve, in the second set, and had more winners and more aces — 22 against 15 — than Raonic, who is rarely outperformed in that area.

Nishikori, Raonic and Dimitrov have yet to win a major title, but they're widely

considered the new wave of future champions. They're all playing their first tournaments of the season in Brisbane, getting primed for the Australian Open beginning on Jan. 19.

In the night cap, Sharapova wasted four match points in the eighth game of the second set before dropping serve, but converted her fifth match point in the next game to see off Svitolina.

Ivanovic had some wobbles, too, after leading Lepchenko 5-1 in the second set and needing seven match points before she finally finished it off on her serve.

"Despite how we got to the final, we are in the final. □

Govt considering using Internet, smartphones for 2020 census

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The days of the census taker with clipboard in hand may be numbered. The Census Bureau plans to test digital tools in preparation for the 2020 census, a change that could save millions of dollars. People may be asked to fill out their census forms on the Internet instead of sending them through the mail. Census takers may use smartphones instead

of paper to complete their counts. The once-a-decade count is used to draw congressional maps and helps determine how the government spends \$400 billion on infrastructure, programs and services each year. Despite outreach and advertising campaigns, the share of occupied homes that returned a form was 74 percent in 2010, unchanged from 2000 and 1990. The majority of the



money the bureau spends during a census goes to

In this photo provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, tabulators in Washington record the information from the more than 120,000 enumerators who gathered data for the 1940 U.S. Census.

Associated Press

China bans private drivers on ride-hailing apps

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China has banned drivers of private cars from offering services through ride-hailing apps, throwing up a new hurdle to Uber Technologies Ltd.'s global expansion.

Only licensed taxis may use ride-hailing apps, the Ministry of Transport announced Friday. Such apps are hugely popular in China, and the ministry said it needed to protect users. The ruling could be a setback for Uber, which faces legal challenges in South Korea, India, Europe, California and other markets for using drivers who lack taxi licenses.

"While we encourage innovation, we prohibit private cars from using platforms to participate in the 'hired car' business," said a ministry announcement. It said companies that operate ride-hailing apps will be required to make sure no unlicensed drivers use them.

China's ride-hailing market is dominated by domestic competitors Didi Dache, backed by Internet giant Tencent, and Kuaidi Dache, backed by rival Alibaba Group. Those serv-



The Uber app is displayed on a phone posed for photos near a woman peering into a car outside a office building in Beijing, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015.

Associated Press

es are used mostly by taxi companies.

A third Chinese Internet giant, search engine operator Baidu Inc., jumped into the market in December by investing in Uber.

Taxi companies in the United States, Europe and other countries have complained Uber and similar ride-hailing services have an unfair advantage because they are not covered by regulations that affect the established industry.

In December, the Shanghai city government detained and fined 12 unlicensed drivers who received business through the Didi Dache app.

In South Korea, the chief executive of Uber's local subsidiary was charged in December with operating an unlicensed transport company.

Police in New Delhi say they are considering similar charges. A French court has ordered Uber to remove from its app any language suggesting it was legal for its drivers to act like taxis.

As attractive as the China market could be for Uber, many Western companies have been able to thrive without it. Facebook, for example, is blocked in the country but has amassed more than 1.35 billion users worldwide. □

getting everyone else to fill out their forms, Census Director John H. Thompson said.

In the Savannah, Georgia, area and in Maricopa County, Arizona, census workers this year will be asking people to respond on the Internet instead of filling out the traditional forms with such questions as age, race and homeownership. During follow-up visits for those who don't answer, census workers will forgo using paper and instead input answers directly into their smartphones for instantaneous collection and analysis.

In addition, in Savannah and nearby South Carolina, census officials will test an Internet response system that will only require a person to input a home address to answer questions, instead of using a government-generated identification number.

"All you need to have is an address where you live," Thompson said. "If we do that, it opens up all kinds of new ways to promote the census in targeted ways. If we contact someone at a sporting event and they have a smartphone, we can get them to respond right then and there."

The Census Bureau plans to discuss its upcoming tests in a webcast on Fri-

day.

Americans are ready for an Internet-driven census, officials said. During 2014 tests in Washington, D.C., and nearby Montgomery County, Maryland, 55 percent of the families who were asked to fill out their census tests on the Internet responded without major prodding, an "exceptional response," Thompson said. Census workers used iPhones to collect information in follow-up visits.

Census workers will use Android phones during the test this year, Thompson said. "Everything will be on those smartphones. No paper," he said.

For government officials, going digital means they can do real-time analysis on areas to figure out which households have not responded, and be able to use their workers on the ground more efficiently, he said.

"You now can electronically control the flow of information all the way, from when you get people to self-respond, hopefully by the Internet, to when you give it to the interviewers to when you get it back from the interviewers," he said. The Census Bureau will also test using electronic records from other government agencies to help fill in gaps in responses, Thompson said. □

Activist investor intensifies fight over DuPont

NEW YORK (AP) — A fight for control of DuPont Co. is intensifying after the hedge fund led by activist investor Nelson Peltz announced plans to nominate its own slate of four directors to the industry titan's board. Its shares edged higher in morning trading Friday. Trian Fund Management LP, which holds about a 2.7 percent stake in DuPont, has been hammering away at the more than 200-year-old, \$67.5 billion chemical company for almost two years now, pushing to split it into two.

Trian has called for the agriculture, nutrition and health and industrial biosciences units to be combined into a single growth company, separate from the more cyclical businesses of performance materials, safety and protection, and electronics and communication. It also wants the performance chemicals unit separated. While DuPont has already announced plans to spin off the performance chemicals segment, Trian said that the plans include "poor corporate gover-

nance and punitive anti-takeover measures" that show a disconnect from shareholders. DuPont said late Thursday that it will review Trian's proposed nominees and make recommendations that are in the best interests of its shareholders. At the same time, the Delaware company defended its current board, saying that it contains "experienced professionals with expertise across a range of relevant disciplines and industries critical to DuPont's businesses." DuPont said that

there have been numerous efforts to have constructive talks with Trian, but that the firm "has chosen this path with the potential to disrupt our company at a key stage of execution against our plan." Trian's board nominees, which include Peltz, will face a vote at the annual shareholder meeting for E.I. duPont de Nemours and Co. in the spring. DuPont shares rose 18 cents to \$74.69 in morning trading. Its shares have risen almost 17 percent over the past year. □

Business events scheduled for the upcoming week

The Associated Press
(All times Eastern)

MONDAY, Jan. 12
No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, Jan. 13
WASHINGTON — Labor Department releases job openings and labor turnover survey for November, 10 a.m.; Treasury releases federal budget for December, 2 p.m. CSX Corp. reports quarterly financial results after the market closes.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 14
WASHINGTON — Commerce Department releases retail sales data for December, 8:30 a.m.; Commerce Department releases business inventories for November, 10 a.m.; Federal Reserve releases Beige Book, 2 p.m. JPMorgan Chase & Co. reports quarterly financial results before the market opens. Wells Fargo & Co. reports quarterly financial results before the market opens.

THURSDAY, Jan. 15
WASHINGTON — Labor Department releases weekly jobless claims, 8:30 a.m.; Labor Department releases the Producer Price Index for December, 8:30 a.m.; Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, releases weekly mortgage rates, 10 a.m. **BERLIN** — Germany's Federal Statistical Office releases preliminary full-year economic growth figure for the country's economy, Europe's biggest. Bank of America Corp. reports quarterly financial results before the market opens. Citigroup Inc. reports quarterly financial results before the market opens.

FRIDAY, Jan. 16
WASHINGTON — Labor Department releases Consumer Price Index for December, 8:30 a.m.; Federal Reserve releases industrial production for December, 9:15 a.m. The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. reports quarterly financial results before the market opens. □

US stocks slide following weak wage data

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

A turbulent week of trading ended Friday with U.S. stocks finishing lower for the third time in five days. The decline followed two days of big gains and nudged major indexes lower for the year.

A slide in oil prices deepened, stoking concerns about global economic growth. Energy stocks tumbled, extending their losses for the year.

Investors also were discouraged by weak U.S. wage growth in December, despite another strong increase in hiring.

"We finally got the jobs growing," said Erik Davidson, deputy chief investment officer of Wells Fargo Private Bank. "Now people are looking through that at the actual wage growth numbers and they want to see improvement on wages, which obviously would spur demand and consumer confidence."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 17.33 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,044.81. The index is now down 0.7 percent for the year. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 170.50 points, or about 1 percent, to 17,737.37. The Dow has fallen 0.5 percent this year. The Nasdaq composite lost 32.12 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,704.07. It's down 0.7 percent this year.

After a long period of relative calm, stock markets have become more vola-

tile as investors grapple with slowing global growth and slumping oil prices. A gauge of investor anxiety, the Chicago Board Options Exchange's volatility index, or VIX, rose 3 percent to 17.5 on Friday, up from 12 a month ago.

rope's central bank and renewed confidence that the Federal Reserve will keep supporting the economy helped push stocks higher in the middle of the week after a tough start to the year.

But by Friday, the jobs data

The price of oil has fallen by more than half since June as traders anticipate a glut of supply caused by increased production. The slide also has stoked concern about the already troubled state of economies overseas.



Specialist Thomas McArdle, center, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A turbulent week of trading ended Friday with U.S. stocks finishing lower for the third time in five days.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

"It's going to be a volatile year, but I think if you remain a long-term investor ... and you push out this volatility and you focus on the trends, I think (the stock market) is going to have a pretty good year," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners.

A combination of positive U.S. economic news, hopes for stimulus from Eu-

and a renewed decline in oil prices put traders in a selling mood once again. U.S. crude fell 43 cents, or 0.9 percent, to close at \$48.36 a barrel in New York on further evidence that OPEC will not cut production in an effort to support prices. In London, Brent crude fell 85 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$50.11 a barrel, setting a new five and a half-year low.

"Is it a canary in the coal mine for bigger global economic concerns?" Davidson said. "Is oil telling us something about the future of the global economy?" The latest U.S. jobs data also gave some investors reason for concern. The government reported that employers added 252,000 jobs in December, slightly more than economists expected. □

Caesars gets restructuring support with sale by BlackRock

WILLIAM ALDEN

© 2015 New York Times

Some of Wall Street's largest investors are playing a game of high-stakes poker in preparation for a big casino company bankruptcy. The wrangling is over Caesars Entertainment Operating Co., a unit of the heavily indebted casino conglomerate Caesars

Entertainment. With about a week remaining before the operating company expects to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, Caesars is trying to rally support among bondholders for a plan that would streamline the process.

Caesars moved closer to its goal this week, when BlackRock, the giant asset

manager, sold \$500 million of first-lien bonds to investors that support the debt-restructuring plan, according to people briefed on the matter who were not authorized to speak publicly. The sale was first reported by Bloomberg News.

With the sale, Caesars now has support from holders

of close to 60 percent of the first-lien bonds, one of the people briefed on the matter said.

Caesars needs support from at least 60 percent of these bonds by Monday for the reorganization plan to take effect. But the company is ultimately aiming higher, seeking support from holders of at least

two-thirds of the bonds. If Caesars achieves that level, the entire class of bondholders will be legally deemed to have accepted the plan.

On Thursday morning, Caesars announced that it had gotten support for the plan from investors that own, or will own, 55 percent of the bonds. □

Activist hedge fund again warns Yahoo on acquisition

MICHAEL MERCED

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With rumors about Yahoo going on a shopping spree picking up among investors, an activist hedge fund that has taken a position in the company has again publicly declared its opposition to such a move.

The hedge fund, Starboard Value, urged Yahoo in a public letter this week to divest its minority stakes in Alibaba Group, the Chinese Internet giant, and in Yahoo's publicly traded Japanese affiliate. That plan, however, should not include large acquisitions - like takeovers of media companies like CNN, it said.

However, Starboard would welcome one particular deal: an acquisition of fellow old-line Internet company AOL. Starboard owns stakes in both.

Should Yahoo ignore those warnings, the hedge fund warned, the company could face a bruising board fight.

"Such actions would be a clear indication to us that significant leadership change is required at Yahoo," Jeffrey Smith, Star-

board's managing member, wrote.

The letter highlights the pressure that Yahoo is under to generate additional

returns for its shareholders. Starboard - which last year successfully ousted the entire board of Darden Res-

taurants, the operator of Olive Garden - is only one of a host of investors that are eager to have Yahoo

return as much cash as

investor in September, Starboard has argued against Yahoo's use of money from selling its stakes in Alibaba and Yahoo Japan to make

had considered buying properties like CNN or the cable network operator Scripps Networks Interactive. Investors have also speculated about whether Yahoo would employ a complex financial transaction, known as a cash-rich split, to sell its interests in the Asian Internet companies. The maneuvers would essentially have Yahoo trade its minority stakes in exchange for cash and some kind of operating business, possibly another Internet or media company.

That option, Smith wrote, was also undesirable. The operating assets that Yahoo would take on in such a move might be of "questionable value" in shareholders' eyes, he said, and the cash that it would receive could also be used to make unwise acquisitions. And the overall value of that transaction might be less than if the minority stakes were simply spun off. In his letter, Smith added that Marissa Mayer, Yahoo's chief executive, had agreed at a meeting in October that a cash-rich split would be less than ideal. □



This photo shows a sign in front of Yahoo! headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif. With rumors about Yahoo going on a shopping spree picking up among investors, an activist hedge fund that has taken a position in the company has again publicly declared its opposition to such a move.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

Since first emerging as an

possible to shareholders without generating a big tax bill.

potentially expensive acquisitions. But in recent weeks, media reports surfaced that the company

potentially expensive acquisitions. But in recent weeks, media reports surfaced that the company

potentially expensive acquisitions. But in recent weeks, media reports surfaced that the company

Nestlé sells Spanish frozen foods brand to Findus Group

CHAD BRAY

© 2015 New York Times

LONDON - The food giant Nestlé said this week that it had agreed to sell its La Cocinera frozen-meals business to the Spanish arm of Findus Group, the British frozen food and seafood supplier.

The deal is the latest in a series of sales by Nestlé as it reduces its brand offerings to focus on more profitable business lines. The terms of the transac-

tion were not disclosed.

As part of the deal, Findus will acquire the brand La Cocinera and a frozen food factory in Valladolid, Spain, Nestlé said in a news release.

Nestlé - the maker of Kit Kat chocolate bars, Nespresso coffee and Purina pet food - will retain chilled dough products that have been sold under the name La Cocinera, including pie dough and puff pastry.

Those products will be marketed under the Buitoni brand name once the transaction is completed.

The sale is subject to regulatory approval.

The food giant has engaged in a series of brand sales since Nestlé's chief executive, Paul Bulcke, unveiled plans two years ago for the company to divest some of its underperforming business lines. Those sales include the di-

vestiture of its 10 percent stake in Givaudan, the Swiss flavor and fragrance company; the sale of its PowerBar nutrition business to Post Holdings, the cereal giant; and the divestiture of its Jenny Craig brand in North America, Australia, New Zealand and parts of the Pacific to a private equity firm, North Castle Partners.

The acquisition broadens the portfolio of Findus. One of Europe's largest

frozen food and seafood suppliers, Findus has 6,000 employees and annual sales of more than 1 billion pounds, or about \$1.5 billion.

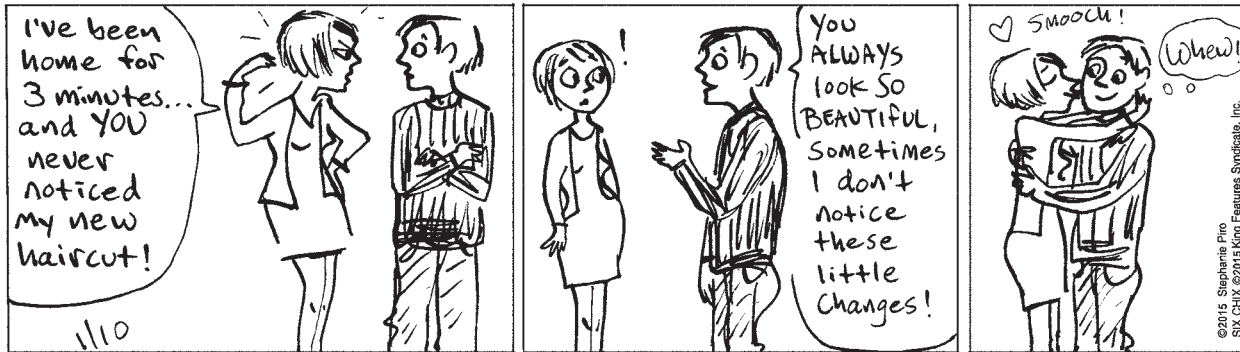
It operates under the Young's Seafood Ltd. brand in Britain and under the Findus name in the Nordic region and in Southern Europe.

Its investors include the private equity firms Tri-Pointe Capital Partners and Lion Capital. □

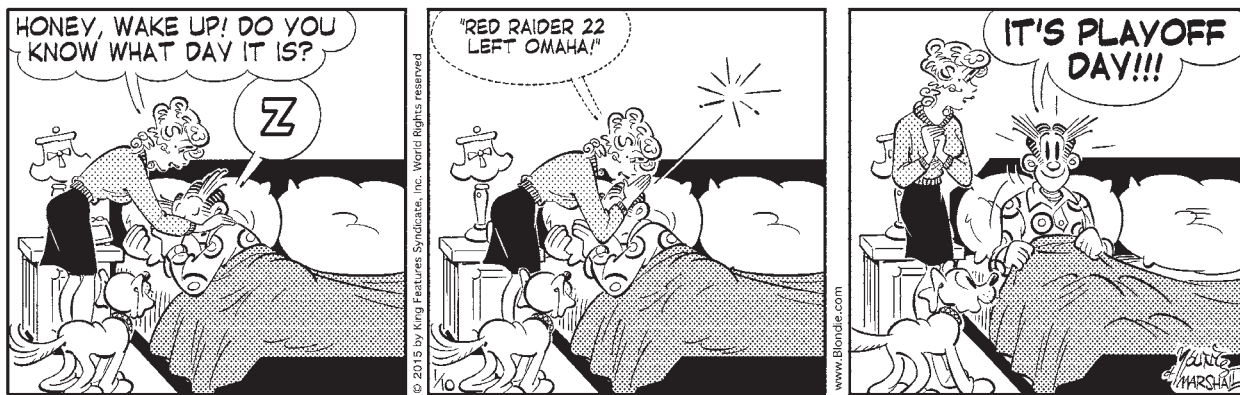
Mutts



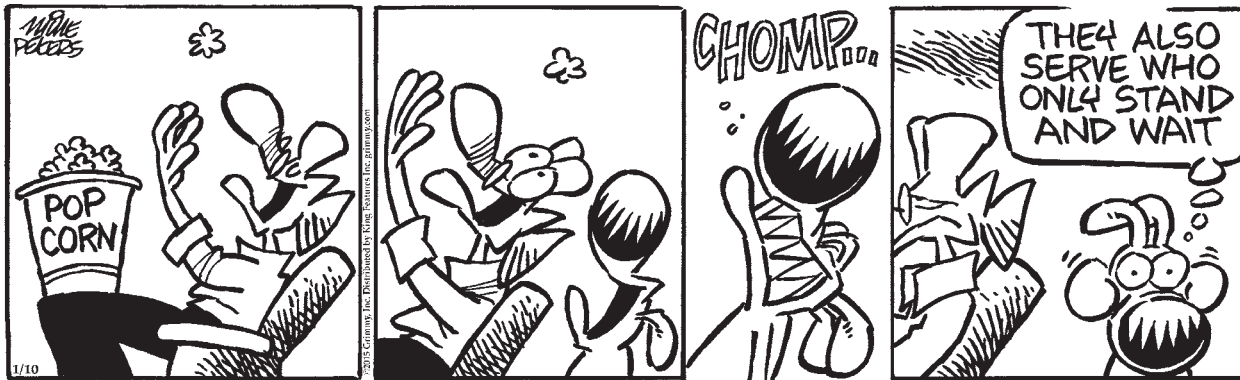
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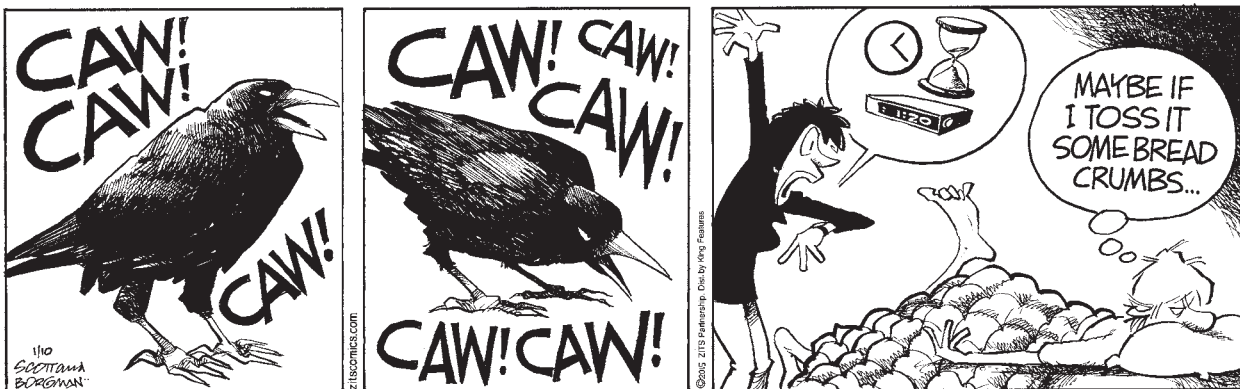
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2		4			8			7
	8		9		7		3	
								5
3	7						8	
	2						6	4
5								
	6		1		9		2	
1			5			9		3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/10

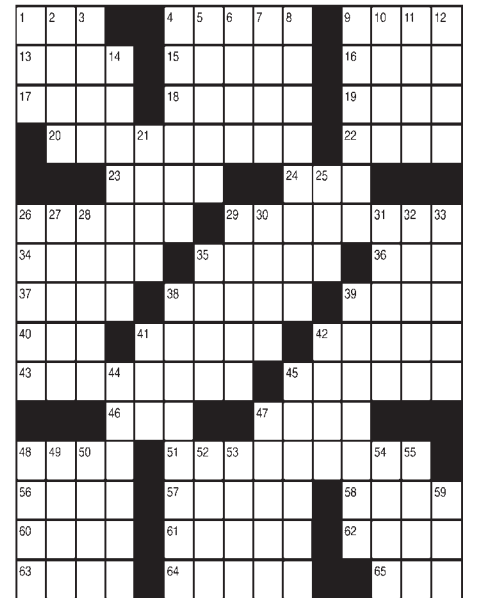
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	9	5	3	4	6	2	1	8
6	4	1	2	5	8	3	7	9
2	3	8	9	1	7	4	6	5
5	6	9	1	7	3	8	4	2
1	2	7	4	8	9	5	3	6
3	8	4	6	2	5	1	9	7
4	7	6	5	3	2	9	8	1
9	1	2	8	6	4	7	5	3
8	5	3	7	9	1	6	2	4

ACROSS

- "Be quiet!"
- Become bloated
- "... the night before Christmas..."
- Nut
- Spooky
- Vagabond
- Days of ...; yesteryear
- Hits the ceiling
- Songbird
- Unsafe
- Tallies up
- Convent dwellers
- ...shattering; way too loud
- Crafty plan
- Winnipeg's province
- Forest
- Minaret
- Mai tai ingredient
- Actress Sheedy
- Kept for later
- Epiphany visitors
- Singer Tillis
- Reigned
- Convinces
- Seance leaders
- Signs of life in the wrist
- Go bad
- Orange rind
- Opposite of "Giddyap!"
- Purse, hat or belt
- Public uprising
- Cry like a lamb
- Dog's comment
- Shaping tool
- Open a blister surgically
- Wise man
- Look searchingly
- Go in
- Get ... of; shed



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/10/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

SMART	TABS	SLAP
OUTER	OBEY	COMO
ALOHA	TEEM	ODOR
REPAIRED	BROGUE	
	SLAM	LOITERS
MASHED	HALLE	
ABC	RACES	ERECT
SLOB	ROAST	SALE
SETUP	CLOUT	SUN
	NOOKS	TESTED
RAGGEDY	ROME	
AFLAME	PURPLISH	
FOAL	SNUB	ELOPE
TODD	SORE	SEWER
STEW	AGES	TRADE

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1/10/15

DOWN

- Heaven above
- Parka feature
- Israeli dance
- Fraternity letter
- Takes to court
- Moon surface depression
- Bother
- Tranquillity
- "It's a ...!" director's cry
- Conceal slowly
- Extended family group
- Penny
- Laugh loudly
- Cartoon bear
- Nourished

France Attack

Continued from page 2

The attack came before sundown when the store would have been crowded with shoppers.

Paris police released a photo of Coulibaly and his wife, Hayet Boumddiene, who the official said was his accomplice.

Several people wounded when Coulibaly opened fire in the grocery store were able to flee and get medical care, the official said.

One hundred students were locked down in nearby schools and the highway ringing Paris was closed.

Cherif Kouachi was convicted of terrorism charges in 2008 for ties to a network sending jihadis to fight U.S. forces in Iraq.

A Yemeni security official said his 34-year-old brother, Said Kouachi, is suspected of having fought for al-Qaida in Yemen. Another senior security official said Said was in Yemen until 2012.

Both officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of an ongoing investigation into Kouachi's stay in Yemen.

Both brothers were also on the U.S. no-fly list, a senior U.S. counterterrorism official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss foreign intelligence publicly.

The publication Charlie Hebdo had long drawn threats for its depictions of Islam, although it also satirized other religions and political figures. The weekly paper had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, and a sketch of Islamic State's leader was the last tweet sent out by the irreverent newspaper, minutes before the attack.

The publication Charlie Hebdo had long drawn threats for its depictions of Islam, although it also satirized other religions and political figures. The weekly paper had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, and a sketch of Islamic State's leader was the last tweet sent out by the irreverent newspaper, minutes before the attack.

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Stray satellite signals help measure snowfall in arid West

By DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) -- Climate scientists are gleaming valuable information about snowfall and droughts from errant satellite signals once considered a nuisance. The data comes from GPS receivers, mostly ones used by earthquake researchers to detect motion in the Earth's surface. The receivers use signals from GPS satellites to measure movement. But there's a problem: In addition to picking up signals directly from the satellites, the receivers also pick up satellite signals that bounce off the ground first, providing false readings. "First I tried to get rid of them because they were making the earthquake data bad," said Kristine Larson, a professor of aero-

space engineering at the University of Colorado. But about four years ago, Larson and other Colorado scientists discovered those nuisance signals have some value. In winter, researchers can determine the depth of nearby snow by how long it takes the reflected signals to reach the receiver. If the ground is bare, they can tell how much moisture is in the soil by the strength of the reflected signal. That can be valuable information, particularly in the arid West, where snow depth in remote mountain ranges determines how much water will be available to cities, farms and wildlife when the spring melt begins. Larson and a team of researchers now monitor about 500 GPS receivers,

mostly in the western United States, for snow and moisture data. The National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln uses the information from Larson's team to supplement data from a nationwide snow-measuring network of about 3,000 human observers and more than 730 automated stations called SNOTEL, for Snowpack Telemetry. Operated by the U.S. Agriculture Department, the stations have a pressure-sensing pad, precipitation gauge and thermometer and use radio signals to relay information about snow depth and moisture content. The stations are widely spaced and can be difficult to reach if they break, said Brian Fuchs, a clima-



In this Jan. 8, 2015 photo, Kristine Larson, a professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Colorado, pictured at work on the campus of CU in Boulder, Colo.

Associated Press

Cold comfort: U.S. weather in 2014 not too hot, disastrous

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — On a day when much of the U.S. struggled with cold, U.S. meteorologists said America's weather in 2014 wasn't really that bad. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Thursday that the U.S. average temperature in 2014 was half a degree warmer than normal and weather was less disastrous and drought-struck than previous years. While 2014 was warmer than 2013 in the lower 48 states, it was still only the 34th warmest on record. That contrasts with the experience of the world as a

whole. Globally, it will likely go down as the warmest year on record. Japan's meteorological agency has already calculated 2014 as the warmest year worldwide. NOAA and NASA will announce global 2014 figures next week, but data through November point toward a new record. The U.S. is only 2 percent of the world's surface and temperatures are more dictated by weather than climate, said Pennsylvania State University atmospheric scientist Michael Mann. "It was a strange year for the U.S.," said University of Illinois climate scientist Donald Wuebbles. "The extreme warmth and

droughts in the western U.S. and the extreme cold winter and cooler summer in the East and Midwest were largely driven by blocking patterns at high latitudes in the Arctic." Wuebbles said those blocking patterns meant warmer Alaskan temperatures and cold invasions south—like last January's deep chill. It was the 18th straight year the U.S. was warmer than the 20th-century average. Last year there were eight weather disasters that caused more than \$1 billion in damage, according to NOAA. The last five years that averaged 10 such billion-dollar disasters. □

tologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center. Data from other sources, including Larson's team, helps fill in the gaps. "It gives us a better idea of what's going on between data points and in data-poor areas," Fuchs said. Larson said the soil moisture data could also help farmers know whether to expect floods. Heavily saturated ground can't absorb much more rain and snow, making flooding more likely. With an annual budget of about \$250,000, the project is relatively inexpensive because it uses data from GPS receivers installed and paid for by other projects, Larson said. And GPS receivers are plentiful and well-maintained, because the system is so integral to society, she said. The satellites provide precise timing and location information used in weap-

ons, navigation, banking and other applications. Many of the GPS receivers Larson's team monitors were installed for earthquake research. Others are used by public and private surveyors or state highway departments. The operators have been happy to share the data, Larson said. She hopes the project can grow to about 5,000 receivers worldwide. "I have not met an environmental scientist who wants less soil moisture and snow data," she said. Earthquake researchers have found ways to work around the reflected signals, Larson said. Data can be averaged over longer periods - a full day instead of a few minutes, for example - to minimize any errors caused by the stray signals. "We've all learned to live with them," she said. □



In this Sept. 15, 2014 file photo, actress Clare Foley attends the "Gotham" series premiere event at the New York Public Library in New York.

Associated Press

'Gotham' star uses villain role to keep baby brother in line

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk about a way to keep a young sibling in check. Clare Foley, who plays Ivy Pepper in Fox's Batman prequel "Gotham," says she's got her baby brother convinced that she is the future Batman nemesis — and she's using it to her advantage. In an interview this week, the 13-year-old actress said she thinks "it's kind of funny" that 4-year-old Declan, the youngest of her four brothers, truly believes that she and the character she plays — the orphan daughter of the man framed for the mur-

ders of Bruce Wayne's parents — are one and the same. Her mom says Declan was so frightened at one point that they had to assure him that his big sister was the "good Ivy." As for her other brothers, Foley laments that she doesn't get the same respect. Also Batman fans, they think it's "very cool" she has the role but she says they realize that "I'm just their sister." In "Gotham," which airs Mondays at 8 p.m. EST, Ivy becomes homeless after her dad is shot dead by police and her mother commits suicide. □

History to debut 'Texas Rising' in theaters

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

The History network said Friday that it plans to premiere its miniseries "Texas Rising" in theaters before it begins on television over the Memorial Day weekend.

Details are still being worked out, but the idea is to show the first episode of the series in about 900 theaters the week before the television premiere, said the network's general manager, Dirg Hoogstra. Theatregoers will also be able to see red carpet activity from the official premiere site, expected in San Antonio.

The historical fiction miniseries, set to run for eight hours and possibly more, is History's attempt to echo "Hatfields & McCoys," the miniseries that was an unexpected huge hit for the network in May 2012. Leslie Greif, executive producer of "Hatfields & McCoys," is also behind "Texas Rising." History hopes to draw further attention to the series through the theater premiere, Hoogstra said. Trailers promoting the series are already running in the-



Roland Joffe, from left, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and Ray Liotta speak on stage A+E Networks 2015 Winter TCA on Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

aters.

"We made a film," Greif said. "It's just airing on television."

The shoot-'em-up series uses the battle of the Alamo as a takeoff point for a story about the formation of the Republic of Texas. "We've all seen the Alamo, everyone knows the story, but not many people know what happened afterward," Greif said.

Ray Liotta, Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Olivia Marti-

nez are among the stars. Texan Bill Paxton plays Sam Houston, and he recalled Friday how his father took him to visit the Alamo as a youngster.

"It's amazing to think that I would be in a saga about the birth of Texas," he said. The miniseries was filmed in Mexico, requiring producers to rebuild the Alamo on a television set on the soil of the country that fought Texas nearly two centuries ago. □

Study: White men get most entry-level TV directing jobs

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Women and minority directors are losing out on crucial entry-level jobs, according to a Directors Guild of America study released Friday.

Of the 479 first-time directors hired to work on TV series from 2009 to 2014, men represented 82 percent and women 18 percent, the study said. The vast majority of the first-time directors — 87 percent — were white.

"There's a big opportunity here for those in charge of hiring to make a difference, but they're not," DGA President Paris Barclay said in a

statement. If women and minority directors fail to get a foothold on the career ladder, he said, "it'll be status quo from here to eternity." Betty Thomas, the guild's first vice president and co-chair of its diversity task force, said studios and executive producers are making choices that demonstrate "they don't actively support diversity hiring."

"First-time TV directors are new to the game and come from all areas of the industry, including film school. So why is a woman or minority any less qualified than anybody else?" Thomas said in a statement. Barclay, who is African-



In this Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014 file photo, Paris Barclay attends the LA Premiere Screening of "Sons Of Anarchy" at at TCL Chinese Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

American, and Thomas are themselves successful directors. Barclay's credits include TV's "NYPD Blue," "Sons of Anarchy" and

"Glee." Thomas, a former actress, has directed films including "Doctor Dolittle" and "28 Days."

The study found varied re-

sumes among first-time directors, with actors making up 18 percent. Others included assistant directors and production managers (10 percent), and cinematographers and camera operators (8 percent). Directors from film, music videos and other genres made up the rest of the group studied.

Criticism of lack of diversity behind and in front of the camera has long dogged the entertainment industry. Last year, a guild analysis of all 3,500 cable, broadcast and high-budget online shows airing in the 2013-14 season found that the vast majority were directed by white men. □

Artistic license gets an audit in Hollywood's awards season

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After Stephen Hawking privately screened "The Theory of Everything," he judged the affectionate portrait of his life, from student to world-famous theoretical physicist, with a succinct verdict. "Broadly true," Hawking pronounced.

Not everyone, though, is so polite about the limitations inherent in recreating life and time in a neatly dramatic two hours. As if on cue, debates of accuracy have arrived in this year's awards season just as they have in past years for movies like "Argo," "The Social Network" and "Zero Dark Thirty."

"American Sniper," "Foxcatcher" and most notably "Selma" — which has been roiled by criticism over its depiction of Lyndon B. Johnson — have returned the familiar drama of life vs. art to Oscar season. Before being taken to the Academy Awards, the movies are now taken to school.

Fictionalizations of historical events and real people have long prompted hand-wringing, but artistic license seems increasingly under threat of being revoked. The friction has become its own sideshow, pulling filmmakers into the cable-news cacophony.

The biggest target this year has been Ava DuVernay's "Selma," an acclaimed drama about the famous 1965 protest march. It, too, is broadly (and often specifically) true and a rousing, expansive picture of the multitudes that unite in effecting change from the streets of Alabama to the White House.

But the scenes showing Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and President Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) have been harshly criticized for mischaracterizing Johnson as a foot-dragger to black voting rights, rather than the MLK collaborator historians and former aides like Joseph A. Califano Jr. (who penned a scathing Op-Ed for the Washington Post) insist he was. Many have called the large



In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Kyle Gallner, left, and Bradley Cooper appear in a scene from "American Sniper." The film is based on the autobiography by Chris Kyle.

Associated Press

reaction to one issue in "Selma" overinflated, particularly as it comes after decades of films focusing on white protagonists in sto-

ed intelligence gathered through torture helped lead to Osama bin Laden's capture, was partly motivated by establishing the histori-

one's satisfaction, while still telling an entertaining story. "It's impossible," says DuVernay. "If you try to satisfy other people, you will fail. I've made the film that is my vision for telling the story, and that vision is not one that I intend to have strangled by facts and perspectives and opinions that are impossible to portray to please everyone. What we wanted to do is capture the spirit of the time."

With the notable exception of "Zero Dark Thirty," few films been much punished at the box office or by the motion picture academy for lapses in accuracy.

Before "The King's Speech" went on to win best picture at the 2011 Oscars, critics called it "a gross falsification of history" for glossing over Edward VIII's Hitler-sympathizing. Ben Affleck's "Argo" minimized Cana-



In this image released by Paramount Pictures, David Oyelowo portrays Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a scene from "Selma," a film based on the slain civil rights leader.

Associated Press

ries of black rights. DuVernay says that the "broad strokes" of the LBJ portrayal are true and that he was a "reluctant hero" in the timing of the Voting Rights Act. She calls the controversy a "feeding frenzy of the media."

"You can look at everything with a lens of scrutiny and miss the greater truth that the artists are trying to share," DuVernay said in an interview. "It's just a different art form than a doc or a history book. The sooner folks realize that, the sooner we can let this art breath and live a little bit."

The unique photographic power of the movies to recreate physical reality makes the medium especially prone to issues of fact and fiction. Many still take for fact the conspiracy theories floated by Oliver Stone in "JFK."

The outcry in late 2012 over Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Thirty," which suggest-

cal record for the public. Senators Diane Feinstein and John McCain claimed the film was "perpetuating the myth that torture is ef-



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Steve Carell in a scene from "Foxcatcher," based on the non-fiction book of the same name about John du Pont, a millionaire convicted of third-degree murder in the death of Dave Schultz, an Olympic champion freestyle wrestler.

Associated Press

fective" and told the film's makers they had "a social and moral obligation to get the facts right."

Yet getting the facts right isn't always possible to do with certainty or to every-

da's role in the Iranian rescue. Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" set Connecticut lawmakers in an uproar for incorrectly showing the state's representatives as voting against the 13th

Amendment.

In this year's Oscar race, in which "Selma" is considered among the front-runners, there's no shortage of fodder for debate. The World War II tale "The Imitation Game," for one, significantly boils down the code-breaking collaborators at Britain's Bletchley Park, focusing solely on Alan Turing instead.

Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper" renders lethal Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle's life in mythical proportions, avoiding more disturbing aspects of his life. (Kyle boasted of killing looters after Hurricane Katrina.) A Guardian column blared: "The real American Sniper was a hate-filled killer. Why are simplistic patriots treating him as a hero?"

The pressure can be equally strong on the other side of the screen. Kyle's father reportedly told Eastwood before production started: "Disrespect my son and I'll unleash hell on you."

Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz had been a passionate supporter of Bennett Miller's "Foxcatcher," a drama about John du Pont's tragic murder of Schultz's brother, Dave. But Schultz recently exploded in a Facebook post about a scene in the film that he felt implied a sexual relationship between him and du Pont.

"You crossed the line Miller. We're done," wrote Schultz, who also threatened to end Miller's career over the dispute.

In an earlier interview, Miller said that they argued over Schultz's hesitance at including less-than-flattering aspects of his life before "a come-to-Jesus moment."

"I said I really don't want to make a film about you or anybody living if I don't have a concession that you're going to sign off on anything that I might discover and deem appropriate so long as it doesn't violate or contradict any fundamental truth about who you are or what happened, as I will judge and not you or anybody else," said Miller. "I said I can walk away and it's fine." □

The Problem With Meaning



DAVID BROOKS

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Not long ago, a friend sent me a speech that the great civic leader John Gardner gave to the Stanford Alumni Association 61 years after he graduated from that college. The speech is chock-full of practical wisdom. I especially liked this passage:

"The things you learn in maturity aren't simple things such as acquiring information and skills. You learn not to engage in self-destructive behavior. You learn not to burn up energy in anxiety. You discover how to manage your tensions.

You learn that self-pity and resentment are among the most toxic of drugs. You find that the world loves talent but pays off on character.

"You come to understand that most people are neither for you nor against you; they are thinking about themselves. You learn that no matter how hard you try to please, some people in this world are not going to love you, a lesson that is at first troubling and then really quite relaxing."

Gardner goes on in this wise way. And then, at the end, he goes into a peroration about leading a meaningful life. "Meaning is something you build into your life. You build it out of your own past, out of your affections and loyalties, out of the experience of humankind as it is passed on to you. ... You are the only one who can put them together into that unique pattern that will be your life."

Gardner puts "meaning" at the apogee of human existence. His speech reminded me how often we've heard that word over the past decades. As my Times colleague April Lawson puts it, "meaning" has become the stand-in concept for everything the soul yearns for and seeks. It is one of the few phrases acceptable in modern parlance to describe a fundamentally spiritual need.

Yet what do we mean when we use the word meaning?

The first thing we mean is that life should be about more than material success. The person leading a meaningful life has found some way of serving others that leads to a feeling of significance. Second, a meaningful life is more satisfying than a merely happy life. Happiness is about enjoying the present; meaning is about dedicating oneself to the future. Happiness is about receiving; meaningfulness is about giving. Happiness is about upbeat

moods and nice experiences. People leading meaningful lives experience a deeper sense of satisfaction.

In this way, meaning is an uplifting state of consciousness. It's what you feel when you're serving things beyond self.

Yet it has to be said, as commonly used today, the word is flabby and vacuous, the product of a culture that has grown inarticulate about inner life.

Let me put it this way: If we look at the people in history who achieved great things - like Nelson Mandela or Albert Schweitzer or Abraham Lincoln - it wasn't because they wanted to bathe luxuriously in their own sense of meaningfulness. They had objective and eternally true standards of justice and injustice. They were indignant when those eternal standards were violated. They subscribed to moral systems - whether secular or religious - that recommended specific ways of being, and had specific structures of what is right and wrong, and had specific disciplines about how you might get better over time.

Meaningfulness tries to replace structures, standards and disciplines with self-regarding emotion.

The ultimate authority of meaningful is the warm tingling we get when we feel significant and meaningful.

Meaningfulness tries to replace moral systems with the emotional corona that surrounds acts of charity.

It's a paltry substitute. Because meaningfulness is built solely on an emotion, it is contentless and irreducible. Because it is built solely on emotion, it's subjective and relativistic. You get meaning one way. I get meaning another way. Who is any of us to judge another's emotion?

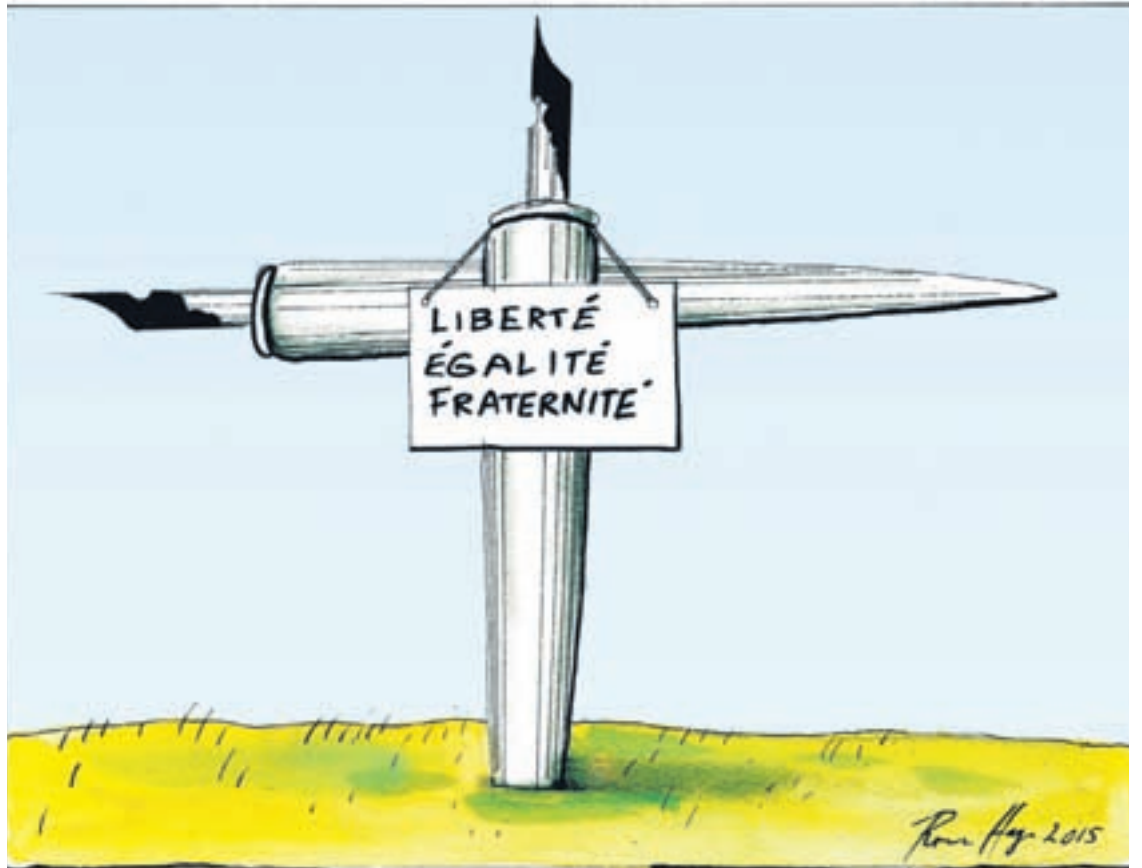
Because it's based solely on sentiment, it is useless. There are no criteria to determine what kind of meaningfulness is higher. There's no practical manual that would help guide each of us as we move from shallower forms of service to deeper ones. There is no hierarchy of values that would help us select, from among all the things we might do, that activity which is highest and best to do.

Because it's based solely on emotion, it's fleeting. When the sensations of meaningful go away then the cause that once aroused them gets dropped, too. Ennui floods in. Personal crisis follows. There's no reliable ground.

The philosophy of meaningfulness emerges in a culture in which there is no common moral vocabulary or framework. It emerges amid radical pluralism, when people don't want to judge each other.

Meaningfulness emerges when the fundamental question is, do we feel good?

Real moral systems are based on a balance of intellectual rigor and aroused moral sentiments. Meaningfulness is pure and self-regarding feeling, the NutraSweet of the inner life.



The Moral of the Kulluk



JOE NOCERA

© 2015 New York Times The cover story of The New York Times Magazine on Sunday, "The Wreck of the Kulluk," by McKenzie Funk, is one of those articles that you can't put down even though you know how it turns out. The Kulluk was an offshore exploratory drilling rig, owned by Royal Dutch Shell, which, in December 2012, ran aground in some of the most inhospitable waters in the world. Those waters were the Chukchi and Beaufort seas in the Arctic Circle, more than 1,000 miles from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, the nearest deep-water port. The rig, which had been towed - with great difficulty - to the Beaufort Sea, was in the process of being towed out again, barely two months after the drill bit touched the sea floor, before ice formations would make the route impassable. The Kulluk and its tow soon ran into a series of dangerous storms. Although no one died, Funk keeps you on the edge of your seat by describing in detail the hair-raising ordeal, which led to the tow captain of a rescue tugboat cutting the Kulluk adrift to ensure his own men's safety. The Kulluk's crew, meanwhile, was airlifted via helicopter, in a dramatic, and dangerous, rescue.

Funk also does a nice job laying out all the mistakes that Shell

made. Despite spending \$6 billion preparing to explore for oil in this remote part of the world, it didn't plan adequately, and it cut too many corners. According to the Coast Guard, which investigated the Kulluk disaster, not only had Shell's risk management been "inadequate," but there also had been a significant number of "potential violations of law and regulations."

I came away from Funk's article, however, with another thought: Even if Shell had done everything right, what were the chances of something bad happening to the Kulluk or, more broadly, to any drilling program in that part of the Arctic? They were high. Although this area is considered to hold one of the last great oil fields - with an estimated 23 billion barrels - is drilling for it really worth the risks?

The first issue is the weather. Strangely, one of the reasons this remote location is at least theoretically accessible to oil companies is because of climate change.

"There is less ice, and it is receding from the shore," said Michael LeVine, the Pacific senior counsel of Oceana, an environmental group dedicated to preserving the world's oceans.

But, he adds, climate change is also affecting the wind, the water and the currents. An area that was already remote, cold and dark is something else as well: unpredictable. Companies trying to explore for oil in the region are essentially flying blind.

Then there is the question of whether the government is up to the task of regulating such high-risk ventures. The answer is: probably not. Even after the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico - and despite some improvements in safety regulations - government regulation is still way behind the oil industry.

"The technological capabilities and the need for oil companies to drill in more remote places has

outstripped the government's ability to keep up with it," LeVine told me.

There are a host of important environmental issues: The industry hasn't gotten better at dealing with oil spills since the Exxon Valdez spill 25 years ago, for instance. Yet because the climate is so difficult, the chances of an environmental calamity are increased.

As regular readers know, I am hardly opposed to drilling for oil or gas. Yet this particular high-risk venture seems unnecessary. For one thing, the world is awash in oil, thanks to a slowdown in demand and increase in supply because of the fracking revolution. For another, the price of oil is so low as to make new, expensive exploration in the Arctic unprofitable.

Most of all, though, we're just not ready to drill for this oil.

As LeVine put it, "I don't believe we have the technological capability to extract these resources safely."

To me, that is the real moral of the story of the Kulluk.

Oil companies, of course, are fundamentally built to find oil. Shell had once embraced climate change and the need for renewable energy. But it eventually realized that it lacked the proper expertise, and it got rid of its investments in wind and solar to refocus on oil and gas. Now, like every other big oil company, it must explore for oil in evermore hostile environments, because those are the only fields left untapped. Despite its travails with the Kulluk, Shell has submitted a plan that would have it going back to the Chukchi later this year.

The oil in the Arctic Circle isn't going anywhere. If, two decades from now, we need it, maybe by then the industry and the government will be in a position to drill for it - and regulate it - safely. But maybe we'll get lucky. Or smart. Maybe we'll never need it at all.

On Comedy: A Softer Side of Loathing

JASON ZINOMAN

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NEW YORK - No comic moves from premise to punch line as unpredictably as Louis CK.

"Why do babies cry on planes?" he wondered aloud Wednesday night at Madison Square Garden before concluding, "It's because they are upset gay people are getting married."

Whatever you think of that joke, there's no way you saw it coming. The same thing was true of his closing bit about rats having sex on the subway. He analyzed their technique with a scientific distance, then took a wild detour that while not as nonsensical as politically opinionated babies, was no less bizarre.

Just as his critically acclaimed television show "Louie" on FX emerged from his stand-up, his new jokes, part of a tour that returns to the Garden this coming Wednesday, increasingly resemble the direction of his show: willfully eccentric, delightfully illogical and packed with a cacophony of anxious characters.

Though his early work was dominated by one strong, thoughtful voice, Louis CK now caps jokes with myriad nicely realized impressions of everyone from the Scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz" to a flirtatious Southern belle out of a Tennessee Williams drama.

It's an effortlessly funny and supremely skilled performance, top-notch comedy by any standard, except, perhaps the one he himself has established. From 2005 to 2011, he produced six blazingly brilliant stand-up specials full of elaborately inventive, often incisive routines while creating the most adventurous show on television. It's an awesome body of work that cemented his place in the comedy pantheon.

His last special, "Oh My God," and this new hour are both solid but a step down in ambition, and with very few belly laughs in the last season of "Louie," we

may be at the end of an exceptional era.

Louis CK remains one of the funniest people alive. But with Chris Rock directing a breakthrough movie and appearing on the cover of seemingly every magazine, and dynamic, gifted per-

He strolled onstage wearing rumpled bluejeans and a red shirt that said Charlie Hebdo, a symbol of solidarity with the satirical French newspaper whose editorial staff members were brutally attacked earlier in the day. He did not mention

directly personal, and his material has adjusted to the changes in his life, moving from jokes about being broke to the oddity of being a city guy spending a summer month in a remote country house.

Since he always talks about

have moved from figuring out how to get them to eat their food to teaching them to be honest without depriving them of the advantages of being good liars. Some of his sharpest insights are about childhood, like the distinctly melodramatic way children see getting "in trouble." He compares the fear of being in trouble to an overwhelmingly powerful monster in a way that will evoke memories of cowering in front of your parents.

A few jokes, like comparing America to a bad boyfriend, seemed stale. Others came off as variations on a well-worn theme, such as offhandedly stumbling into a blunt Jewish joke that felt like a lesser version of a previous bit.

He made several interesting, funny points (including a wonderful musing about the implications of never knowing exactly when you will die), but if this show had a theme, it might have been Louis CK's relationship with the animal kingdom.

He did bits on his relationship with dogs and bats along with his prurient interest in rats. His impressions of them are done with full-bodied gusto and a grotesque physicality. These aren't Disney animals, but the comedian does appear sunnier than ever.

Louis CK appears blessedly at peace with his life or at least less flamboyantly irritated than usual, which made me wonder if such contentment did not detract somewhat from his comedy. After all, he has found countless laughs over agony and loathing, from his own immoral thoughts to his unstoppable gluttony.

He now appears a little heavier than he was on his last special but explained that he was at a point in his life when he found it liberating to barely care about watching his weight.

"I would like to be in good enough shape," he said, explaining the low standard he now aims for, "that if I died, you would ask, 'What happened?'" □



Comedian and actor Louis CK performs at Madison Square Garden in New York, Jan. 7, 2015. The comedian treated the Madison Square Garden audience to willfully eccentric and delightfully illogical new jokes in his stand-up act.

(The New York Times)

formers like Amy Schumer, Hannibal Buress and Tig Notaro doing sharp, fearless work that grapples with contemporary culture, Louis CK is no longer the undisputed champion of stand-up comedy.

There was a time when playing Madison Square Garden would be the obvious pinnacle of a comedian's career, but it's not as rare an accomplishment as it once was. Louis CK is actually the third comic to perform there since October - Aziz Ansari and Russell Peters are the others - and he made the difficult transition from his more natural home in an intimate club or theater to a cavernous arena look easy, managing the feat of maintaining a conversational style while talking to thousands.

the violence and in general, this was not one of his more intellectually provocative sets. There was nothing like his epic rants about technology or a "white people problem," a term he really popularized. He made a short, clever joke about how sexism and lust were related, even woven together, but it was not developed.

Louis CK, 47, has been making about one comedy special a year for the past decade, a remarkably consistent and fertile output. While he became famous through his series, his character there is different from the one onstage. On television, he is inarticulate. But live, he's one of the most eloquent performers in comedy.

Onstage, his work is more

his family, his stand-up provides something of a serialized narrative of his life. His early gripes about his wife's storytelling segued into more disarming bits.

"My wife and I have been married for 9 1/2 years now, so we're almost done," he said in the 2008 special "Chewed Up." He smiled and the crowd laughed, assuming it was typical marriage shtick. They broke up soon after, and his specials started making the case for the benefits of divorce, including an improved relationship with your ex-wife. Some of his earliest breakout jokes were crude complaints about his very young daughters, bits that had parents quietly nodding their heads. His children are now 9 and 12, and his parenting struggles